



February 19, 2026

ENGROSSED
SENATE BILL No. 271

DIGEST OF SB 271 (Updated February 18, 2026 2:27 pm - DI 106)

Citations Affected: IC 25-37.5; IC 34-24; IC 35-31.5; IC 35-43; IC 35-52.

Synopsis: Telecommunications equipment. Adds telecommunications network equipment to the definition of valuable metal. Requires that valuable metal dealer who purchases telecommunications network equipment set the equipment aside for 30 calendar days and permit inspection by law enforcement. Provides that a person who suffers a pecuniary loss as a result of a violation of Indiana law governing valuable metal dealers may bring a civil action for specified damages against the person who caused the loss. Moves existing criminal penalties concerning valuable metals to the criminal code.

Effective: July 1, 2026.

Koch, Freeman, Pol Jr., Schmitt

(HOUSE SPONSORS — MCNAMARA, SOLIDAY)

January 8, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Corrections and Criminal Law.

January 13, 2026, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass.

January 15, 2026, read second time, ordered engrossed. Engrossed.

January 22, 2026, read third time, passed. Yeas 44, nays 1.

HOUSE ACTION

January 28, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Courts and Criminal Code.

February 19, 2026, amended, reported — Do Pass.

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February 19, 2026

Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL No. 271

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning professions and occupations.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 25-37.5-1-0.7 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
2 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 0.7. (a) As used in this section,**
4 **"burned wire" means coated metal wire from which the protective**
5 **coating has been removed by smelting, burning, or melting.**
6 **(b) As used in this chapter, "telecommunications network**
7 **equipment" means:**
8 **(1) wire used in wireline or wireless communications service,**
9 **including:**
10 **(A) fiber; and**
11 **(B) cable consisting of six (6) or more twisted pairs of wire,**
12 **with or without sheathing;**
13 **including burned wire; and**
14 **(2) any component of equipment or infrastructure used to**
15 **provide telecommunications service, including:**
16 **(A) tower components;**
17 **(B) antennae;**

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1 **(C) bus bars; and**
 2 **(D) copper ground support structures;**
 3 **and all associated aerial or ground based cable lines or equipment**
 4 **used as part of a telecommunications or broadband network.**

5 SECTION 2. IC 25-37.5-1-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.222-2013,
 6 SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 7 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) When used in this chapter, "valuable metal"
 8 means any product made of metal that readily may be resold. The term:

9 (1) includes metal bossies, **telecommunications network**
 10 **equipment**, and small component motor vehicle parts; and

11 (2) does not include the following:

12 (A) A beverage can.

13 (B) Used jewelry regulated under IC 24-4-13.

14 (C) Precious metal regulated under IC 24-4-19.

15 (b) As used in this chapter, "valuable metal dealer" means any
 16 individual, firm, corporation, limited liability company, or partnership
 17 engaged in the business of purchasing and reselling valuable metal
 18 either at a permanently established place of business or in connection
 19 with a business of an itinerant nature, including junk shops, junk yards,
 20 junk stores, auto wreckers, scrap metal dealers or processors, salvage
 21 yards, collectors of or dealers in junk, and junk cars or trucks. The term
 22 includes a core buyer. The term does not include a person who
 23 purchases a vehicle and obtains title to the vehicle.

24 (c) As used in this chapter, "purchase" means acquiring a valuable
 25 metal product for a consideration, but does not include purchases
 26 between scrap metal processing facilities (as defined in IC 8-23-1-36).

27 SECTION 3. IC 25-37.5-1-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.224-2013,
 28 SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 29 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. **(a)** Except as provided in section 5 of this
 30 chapter, every valuable metal dealer shall hold each purchase of
 31 valuable metal:

32 **(1)** requiring notification, for at least five (5) working days from
 33 the date of notification; **or**

34 **(2) that is telecommunications network equipment, for at least**
 35 **thirty (30) calendar days from the date of purchase.**

36 **(b) A purchase described in subsection (a) shall be held:**

37 (1) at the regular place of business of the valuable metal dealer;
 38 and

39 (2) separate and apart, so that it is readily identifiable from all
 40 other purchases.

41 **(c)** During ~~this~~ **the period described in subsection (b)**, a valuable
 42 metal dealer may not change the form of the valuable metal, and shall



1 permit any law enforcement officer to make inspection of the valuable
2 metal purchased.

3 SECTION 4. IC 25-37.5-1-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.70-2021,
4 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
5 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. ~~(a)~~ A valuable metal dealer who fails to comply
6 with this chapter commits a Class A infraction. **In addition, the**
7 **valuable metal dealer may be subject to a criminal penalty under**
8 **IC 35-43-4-3.3.**

9 ~~(b) A valuable metal dealer who:~~

10 ~~(1) knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with this chapter;~~

11 ~~and~~

12 ~~(2) purchases stolen valuable metal;~~

13 ~~commits concealing a valuable metal purchase; a Level 6 felony.~~

14 SECTION 5. IC 34-24-3-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.276-2019,
15 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
16 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. If a person has an unpaid claim on a liability
17 that is covered by IC 24-4.6-5 or suffers a pecuniary loss as a result of
18 a violation of **IC 25-37.5**, IC 35-43, IC 35-42-3-3, IC 35-42-3-4,
19 IC 35-45-9, or IC 35-46-10, the person may bring a civil action against
20 the person who caused the loss for the following:

21 (1) An amount not to exceed three (3) times:

22 (A) the actual damages of the person suffering the loss, in the
23 case of a liability that is not covered by IC 24-4.6-5; or

24 (B) the total pump price of the motor fuel received, in the case
25 of a liability that is covered by IC 24-4.6-5.

26 (2) The costs of the action.

27 (3) A reasonable attorney's fee.

28 (4) Actual travel expenses that are not otherwise reimbursed
29 under subdivisions (1) through (3) and are incurred by the person
30 suffering loss to:

31 (A) have the person suffering loss or an employee or agent of
32 that person file papers and attend court proceedings related to
33 the recovery of a judgment under this chapter; or

34 (B) provide witnesses to testify in court proceedings related to
35 the recovery of a judgment under this chapter.

36 (5) A reasonable amount to compensate the person suffering loss
37 for time used to:

38 (A) file papers and attend court proceedings related to the
39 recovery of a judgment under this chapter; or

40 (B) travel to and from activities described in clause (A).

41 (6) Actual direct and indirect expenses incurred by the person
42 suffering loss to compensate employees and agents for time used



1 to:

2 (A) file papers and attend court proceedings related to the
3 recovery of a judgment under this chapter; or

4 (B) travel to and from activities described in clause (A).

5 (7) All other reasonable costs of collection.

6 SECTION 6. IC 35-31.5-2-264.3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
7 CODE AS A **NEW SECTION** TO READ AS FOLLOWS
8 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 264.3. "Purchase", for purposes**
9 **of IC 35-43-4-3.3, has the meaning set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-1.**

10 SECTION 7. IC 35-31.5-2-326.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
11 CODE AS A **NEW SECTION** TO READ AS FOLLOWS
12 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 326.5. "Telecommunications**
13 **network equipment", for purposes of IC 35-43-4-3.3, has the**
14 **meaning set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-0.7.**

15 SECTION 8. IC 35-31.5-2-345.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
16 CODE AS A **NEW SECTION** TO READ AS FOLLOWS
17 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 345.5. "Valuable metal", for**
18 **purposes of IC 35-43-4-3.3, has the meaning set forth in**
19 **IC 25-37.5-1-1.**

20 SECTION 9. IC 35-31.5-2-345.6 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
21 CODE AS A **NEW SECTION** TO READ AS FOLLOWS
22 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 345.6. "Valuable metal dealer",**
23 **for purposes of IC 35-43-4-3.3, has the meaning set forth in**
24 **IC 25-37.5-1-1.**

25 SECTION 10. IC 35-43-4-3.3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
26 CODE AS A **NEW SECTION** TO READ AS FOLLOWS
27 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 3.3. (a) The following definitions**
28 **apply throughout this section:**

29 (1) "Purchase" has the meaning set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-1.

30 (2) "Telecommunications network equipment" has the
31 meaning set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-0.7.

32 (3) "Valuable metal" has the meaning set forth in
33 IC 25-37.5-1-1.

34 (4) "Valuable metal dealer" has the meaning set forth in
35 IC 25-37.5-1-1.

36 (b) A valuable metal dealer who:

37 (1) knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with
38 IC 25-37.5-1; and

39 (2) purchases stolen valuable metal;

40 **commits concealing a valuable metal purchase, a Level 6 felony.**

41 SECTION 11. IC 35-52-25-61.5 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE
42 JULY 1, 2026]. **Sec. 61.5. IC 25-37.5-1-7 defines a crime concerning**



1 valuable metal dealers.



COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. President: The Senate Committee on Corrections and Criminal Law, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 271, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

Page 2, between lines 3 and 4, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 2. IC 25-37.5-1-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.222-2013, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) When used in this chapter, "valuable metal" means any product made of metal that readily may be resold. The term:

- (1) includes metal bossies, **telecommunications network equipment**, and small component motor vehicle parts; and
- (2) does not include the following:
 - (A) A beverage can.
 - (B) Used jewelry regulated under IC 24-4-13.
 - (C) Precious metal regulated under IC 24-4-19.

(b) As used in this chapter, "valuable metal dealer" means any individual, firm, corporation, limited liability company, or partnership engaged in the business of purchasing and reselling valuable metal either at a permanently established place of business or in connection with a business of an itinerant nature, including junk shops, junk yards, junk stores, auto wreckers, scrap metal dealers or processors, salvage yards, collectors of or dealers in junk, and junk cars or trucks. The term includes a core buyer. The term does not include a person who purchases a vehicle and obtains title to the vehicle.

(c) As used in this chapter, "purchase" means acquiring a valuable metal product for a consideration, but does not include purchases between scrap metal processing facilities (as defined in IC 8-23-1-36)."

Page 2, delete lines 25 through 42, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 4. IC 25-37.5-1-11 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 11. A person may not sell or attempt to sell, and a valuable metal dealer may not purchase or attempt to purchase, telecommunications network equipment in any amount, unless:**

- (1) **the seller is an authorized agent, representative, or employee of a telecommunications provider, broadband provider, or public utility;**



(2) the seller:

(A) is authorized by the state to conduct business in Indiana;

(B) is an employee or authorized agent of a business that, in the normal course of operations, handles salvaged telecommunications network equipment, including building contractors and demolition firms; and

(C) presents to the valuable metal dealer for inspection a valid certificate of existence or good standing issued by the state; or

(3) the seller is a retail seller that possesses a certificate of ownership signed by an employee of the telecommunications company stating that the seller is the lawful owner of the telecommunications network equipment. This certificate of ownership must be provided on the telecommunications company business letterhead and must provide the date that the telecommunications network equipment was acquired by the seller and a description of how the telecommunications network equipment was acquired."

Page 3, delete lines 1 through 6.

Re-number all SECTIONS consecutively.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 271 as introduced.)

FREEMAN, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Courts and Criminal Code, to which was referred Senate Bill 271, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 1, line 8, after "wireline" insert "**or wireless**".

Page 1, delete lines 9 through 11, begin a new line double block indented and insert:

"(A) fiber; and

(B) cable consisting of six (6) or more twisted pairs of wire, with or without sheathing;"

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Page 2, delete lines 26 through 42, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 2. IC 25-37.5-1-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.224-2013, SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. **(a)** Except as provided in section 5 of this chapter, every valuable metal dealer shall hold each purchase of valuable metal:

(1) requiring notification, for at least five (5) working days from the date of notification; **or**

(2) that is telecommunications network equipment, for at least thirty (30) calendar days from the date of purchase.

(b) A purchase described in subsection (a) shall be held:

(1) at the regular place of business of the valuable metal dealer; and

(2) separate and apart, so that it is readily identifiable from all other purchases.

(c) During ~~this~~ **the period described in subsection (b)**, a valuable metal dealer may not change the form of the valuable metal, and shall permit any law enforcement officer to make inspection of the valuable metal purchased.

SECTION 3. IC 25-37.5-1-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.70-2021, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. ~~(a)~~ A valuable metal dealer who fails to comply with this chapter commits a Class A infraction. **In addition, the valuable metal dealer may be subject to a criminal penalty under IC 35-43-4-3.3.**

~~(b) A valuable metal dealer who:~~

~~(1) knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with this chapter; and~~

~~(2) purchases stolen valuable metal;~~

~~commits concealing a valuable metal purchase; a Level 6 felony."~~

Delete pages 3 through 7.

Page 8, delete lines 1 through 26.

Page 9, after line 18, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 4. IC 35-31.5-2-264.3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 264.3. "Purchase", for purposes of IC 35-43-4-3.3, has the meaning set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-1.**

SECTION 5. IC 35-31.5-2-326.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 326.5. "Telecommunications network equipment", for purposes of IC 35-43-4-3.3, has the**



meaning set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-0.7.

SECTION 6. IC 35-31.5-2-345.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS** [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 345.5. "Valuable metal", for purposes of IC 35-43-4-3.3, has the meaning set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-1.**

SECTION 7. IC 35-31.5-2-345.6 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS** [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 345.6. "Valuable metal dealer", for purposes of IC 35-43-4-3.3, has the meaning set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-1.**

SECTION 8. IC 35-43-4-3.3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS** [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 3.3. (a) The following definitions apply throughout this section:**

- (1) "Purchase" has the meaning set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-1.**
- (2) "Telecommunications network equipment" has the meaning set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-0.7.**
- (3) "Valuable metal" has the meaning set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-1.**
- (4) "Valuable metal dealer" has the meaning set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-1.**

(b) A valuable metal dealer who:

- (1) knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with IC 25-37.5-1; and**
- (2) purchases stolen valuable metal;**

commits concealing a valuable metal purchase, a Level 6 felony.

SECTION 9. IC 35-52-25-61.5 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]. **Sec. 61.5. IC 25-37.5-1-7 defines a crime concerning valuable metal dealers."**

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 271 as printed January 14, 2026.)

MCNAMARA

Committee Vote: yeas 13, nays 0.

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