



**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT
DIGEST FOR ESB 271**

Citations Affected: IC 25-37.5-1; IC 34-24-3-1; IC 35-31.5-2; IC 35-43-4-3.3;
IC 35-52-25-61.5.

Synopsis: Telecommunications equipment. Adds telecommunications network wire to the definition of "valuable metal" for purposes of Indiana law governing valuable metal dealers. Moves existing criminal penalties concerning valuable metals to the criminal code. Provides that a person may not sell or attempt to sell, and a valuable metal dealer may not purchase or attempt to purchase, telecommunications network wire in any amount unless specified conditions are satisfied. 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. **(This conference committee report amends the bill as follows: (1) Limits the bill's applicability to telecommunications network wire, defined as: (A) fiber; and (B) cable consisting of six or more twisted pairs of wire, with or without sheathing; used in wireline or wireless communications service, including such wire from which the protective coating has been removed by smelting, burning, or melting. (2) Provides that a person may not sell or attempt to sell, and a valuable metal dealer may not purchase or attempt to purchase, telecommunications network wire in any amount unless specified conditions are satisfied. (3) Makes a technical correction.)**

Effective: July 1, 2026.



CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MR. PRESIDENT:

Your Conference Committee appointed to confer with a like committee from the House upon Engrossed House Amendments to Engrossed Senate Bill No. 271 respectfully reports that said two committees have conferred and agreed as follows to wit:

that the Senate recede from its dissent from all House amendments and that the Senate now concur in all House amendments to the bill and that the bill be further amended as follows:

- 1 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert the following:
2 SECTION 1. IC 25-37.5-1-0.7 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
3 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
4 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 0.7. (a) As used in this chapter,**
5 **"telecommunications network wire" means:**
6 **(1) fiber; and**
7 **(2) cable consisting of six (6) or more twisted pairs of wire,**
8 **with or without sheathing;**
9 **used in wireline or wireless communications service.**
10 **(b) The term includes wire described in subsection (a) from**
11 **which the protective coating has been removed by smelting,**
12 **burning, or melting.**
13 SECTION 2. IC 25-37.5-1-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.222-2013,
14 SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
15 JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 1. (a) When used in this chapter, "valuable metal"**
16 **means any product made of metal that readily may be resold. The term:**
17 **(1) includes metal bossies, telecommunications network wire,**

1 and small component motor vehicle parts; and

2 (2) does not include the following:

3 (A) A beverage can.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 ~~and~~

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

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

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

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

38 **(2) the seller:**

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

41 **(B) is an employee or authorized agent of a business that,**
42 **in the normal course of operations, handles salvaged**
43 **telecommunications network wire, including building**

- 1 **contractors and demolition firms; and**
 2 **(C) presents to the valuable metal dealer for inspection a**
 3 **valid certificate of existence or good standing issued by the**
 4 **state of Indiana;**
 5 **(3) the seller holds an amateur radio service license issued by**
 6 **the Federal Communications Commission under 47 CFR,**
 7 **Part 97; or**
 8 **(4) the seller is a retail seller that possesses a bill of sale,**
 9 **purchase receipt, or certificate of ownership signed by an**
 10 **employee of a telecommunications company stating that the**
 11 **seller is the lawful owner of the telecommunications network**
 12 **wire. This certificate of ownership must be provided on the**
 13 **telecommunications company's business letterhead and must**
 14 **provide the date on which the telecommunications network**
 15 **wire was acquired by the seller and a description of how the**
 16 **telecommunications network wire was acquired. A valuable**
 17 **metal dealer that purchases telecommunications network wire**
 18 **under this subdivision must maintain an electronic copy of the**
 19 **bill of sale, purchase receipt, or certificate of ownership**
 20 **provided by the retail seller for two (2) years.**

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

- 28 (1) An amount not to exceed three (3) times:
 29 (A) the actual damages of the person suffering the loss, in the
 30 case of a liability that is not covered by IC 24-4.6-5; or
 31 (B) the total pump price of the motor fuel received, in the case
 32 of a liability that is covered by IC 24-4.6-5.
 33 (2) The costs of the action.
 34 (3) A reasonable attorney's fee.
 35 (4) Actual travel expenses that are not otherwise reimbursed
 36 under subdivisions (1) through (3) and are incurred by the person
 37 suffering loss to:
 38 (A) have the person suffering loss or an employee or agent of
 39 that person file papers and attend court proceedings related to
 40 the recovery of a judgment under this chapter; or
 41 (B) provide witnesses to testify in court proceedings related to
 42 the recovery of a judgment under this chapter.
 43 (5) A reasonable amount to compensate the person suffering loss

- 1 for time used 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 (6) Actual direct and indirect expenses incurred by the person
- 6 suffering loss to compensate employees and agents for time used
- 7 to:
- 8 (A) file papers and attend court proceedings related to the
- 9 recovery of a judgment under this chapter; or
- 10 (B) travel to and from activities described in clause (A).
- 11 (7) All other reasonable costs of collection.

12 SECTION 6. IC 35-31.5-2-264.3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA

13 CODE AS A **NEW SECTION** TO READ AS FOLLOWS

14 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 264.3. "Purchase", for purposes**

15 **of IC 35-43-4-3.3, has the meaning set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-1.**

16 SECTION 7. IC 35-31.5-2-345.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA

17 CODE AS A **NEW SECTION** TO READ AS FOLLOWS

18 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 345.5. "Valuable metal", for**

19 **purposes of IC 35-43-4-3.3, has the meaning set forth in**

20 **IC 25-37.5-1-1.**

21 SECTION 8. IC 35-31.5-2-345.6 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA

22 CODE AS A **NEW SECTION** TO READ AS FOLLOWS

23 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 345.6. "Valuable metal dealer",**

24 **for purposes of IC 35-43-4-3.3, has the meaning set forth in**

25 **IC 25-37.5-1-1.**

26 SECTION 9. IC 35-43-4-3.3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE

27 AS A **NEW SECTION** TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY

28 1, 2026]: **Sec. 3.3. (a) The following definitions apply throughout**

29 **this section:**

- 30 (1) **"Purchase" has the meaning set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-1.**
- 31 (2) **"Valuable metal" has the meaning set forth in**
- 32 **IC 25-37.5-1-1.**
- 33 (3) **"Valuable metal dealer" has the meaning set forth in**
- 34 **IC 25-37.5-1-1.**
- 35 (b) **A valuable metal dealer who:**
- 36 (1) **knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with**
- 37 **IC 25-37.5-1; and**
- 38 (2) **purchases stolen valuable metal;**
- 39 **commits concealing a valuable metal purchase, a Level 6 felony.**

40 SECTION 10. IC 35-52-25-61.5 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE

41 JULY 1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 61.5: IC 25-37.5-1-7 defines a crime concerning~~

42 ~~valuable metal dealers.~~

(Reference is to ESB 271 as reprinted February 24, 2026.)

Conference Committee Report
on
Engrossed Senate Bill 271

Signed by:

Senator Koch
Chairperson

Representative Lindauer

Senator Taylor G

Representative Pierce M

Senate Conferees

House Conferees