

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

LS 7046
BILL NUMBER: SB 271

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 15, 2026
BILL AMENDED: Jan 13, 2026

SUBJECT: Sale of Telecommunications Equipment.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Koch
FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill adds telecommunications network equipment to the definition of valuable metal. The bill also specifies requirements for the: (1) sale of telecommunications network equipment; and (2) purchase of telecommunications network equipment by a valuable metal dealer.

Penalty Provisions: The bill provides that a: (1) person who sells or attempts to sell telecommunications network equipment; or (2) valuable metal dealer who purchases or attempts to purchase telecommunications network equipment; in violation of these requirements commits a Class A infraction. It also provides that a person who: (1) knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with Indiana law governing valuable metal dealers; and (2) sells stolen telecommunications network equipment; commits a Level 6 felony.

Civil Forfeiture: The bill allows seizure and civil forfeiture of a vehicle that is used in the commission of a theft of valuable metal under specified circumstances.

Civil Actions: The bill also 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.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Penalty Provision:* The bill adds a Level 6 felony penalty for knowingly or intentionally violating provisions of the bill concerning sale of valuable metal. A Level 6 felony is punishable by a prison term ranging from 6 to 30 months, with an advisory sentence of 1 year. The sentence depends on mitigating and aggravating circumstances. Assuming offenders can be housed in existing facilities with no additional staff, the marginal cost for medical care, food, and clothing is approximately \$4,825 annually, or \$13.22 daily, per prisoner. However, any additional expenditures are likely to be small.

Explanation of State Revenues: *Summary* - This bill could increase state revenue from (1) civil forfeiture sales, (2) fines and judgments entered for criminal penalties created by the bill, and (3) from court fees for

additional civil actions. Increases in revenue are indeterminable.

Additional Information - Civil Forfeiture: The bill expands civil forfeiture laws to include motor vehicles used in connection to crimes created by the bill. Amounts in excess of any liens on an auctioned motor vehicle would be deposited in the General Fund. Any increase in General Fund revenue from this provision is indeterminable but expected to be minimal.

Civil Actions: Expanding the ability for individuals to seek remedy for pecuniary losses could result in additional civil cases filed in the state. If additional civil cases occur and court fees are collected, revenue to the state General Fund will increase. The total revenue per case would range between \$100 and \$122. The amount deposited will vary depending on whether the case is filed in a court of record or a municipal court. The following linked document describes the fees and distribution of the revenue: [Court fees imposed in civil, probate, and small claims cases.](#)

Penalty Provision: The bill adds a Class A infraction and a Level 6 felony penalty related to violating provisions of the bill concerning sale of valuable metal.

If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund (from criminal fines) and the state General Fund (from court fees) would increase. The maximum judgment for a Class A infraction is \$10,000, which would be deposited in the state General Fund. Fee revenue per case ranges from \$85.50 and \$103, depending on whether the case is filed in a court of record or a municipal court. The maximum fine for a Level 6 felony is \$10,000. The total fee revenue per case would range between \$113 and \$138.

The following linked document describes the fees and distribution of the revenue: [Court fees imposed in criminal, juvenile, and civil violation cases.](#)

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The bill could increase local law enforcement workload to investigate complaints of illegal sale of telecommunication network equipment.

Penalty Provision: If more defendants are detained in county jails prior to their court hearings for Level 6 felonies, local expenditures for jail operations may increase. However, any additional expenditures would likely be small.

Explanation of Local Revenues: *Civil Actions:* If additional cases occur, revenue will be collected by certain local units. If the case is filed in a court of record, the county will receive \$32 and qualifying municipalities will receive a share of \$3. If the case is filed in a municipal court, the county receives \$20, and the municipality will receive \$37. The following linked document describes the fees and distribution of the revenue: [Court fees imposed in civil, probate, and small claims cases.](#)

Penalty Provision: If additional court actions result in a guilty verdict, certain local units will collect more revenue. The following linked document describes the fees and distribution of the revenue: [Court fees imposed in criminal, juvenile, and civil violation cases.](#)

State Agencies Affected: Department of Correction.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources: Indiana Supreme Court, Indiana Trial Court Fee Manual Indiana Sheriffs' Association, Department of Corrections; Indiana Gateway for Government Units, 2023 Annual Financial Reports, <https://gateway.ifonline.org/public/download.aspx> Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2023 Annual Survey of Jails Data Series, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/NACJD/series/7>

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