
SENATE BILL No. 271

AM027103 has been incorporated into January 14, 2026 printing.

Synopsis: Sale of telecommunications equipment.

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January 14, 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.

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 communications service, including:
9 (A) fiber;
10 (B) sheathed copper cable; and
11 (C) twisted-pair wire without sheathing;
12 including burned wire; and
13 (2) any component of equipment or infrastructure used to
14 provide telecommunications service, including:
15 (A) tower components;
16 (B) antennae;
17 (C) bus bars; and

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(D) copper ground support structures;
and all associated aerial or ground based cable lines or equipment
used as part of a telecommunications or broadband network.

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).

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:

(+) 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.

(b) A person who sells or attempts to sell telecommunications network equipment in violation of this chapter commits a Class A infraction. In addition, the person may be subject to a criminal penalty under JC 35-43-4-3.3.

SECTION 4. IC 25-37.5-1-11 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS

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1 **[EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 11. A person may not sell or**
2 **attempt to sell, and a valuable metal dealer may not purchase or**
3 **attempt to purchase, telecommunications network equipment in**
4 **any amount, unless:**

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

8 **(2) the seller:**

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

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

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

19 **(3) the seller is a retail seller that possesses a certificate of**
20 **ownership signed by an employee of the telecommunications**
21 **company stating that the seller is the lawful owner of the**
22 **telecommunications network equipment. This certificate of**
23 **ownership must be provided on the telecommunications**
24 **company business letterhead and must provide the date that**
25 **the telecommunications network equipment was acquired by**
26 **the seller and a description of how the telecommunications**
27 **network equipment was acquired.**

28 SECTION 5. IC 34-24-1-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.186-2025,

29 SECTION 184, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
30 **[EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) The following may be seized:**

31 **(1) All vehicles (as defined by IC 35-31.5-2-346), if they are**
32 **used or are intended for use by the person or persons in**
33 **possession of them to transport or in any manner to facilitate the**
34 **transportation of the following:**

35 **(A) A controlled substance for the purpose of committing,**
36 **attempting to commit, or conspiring to commit any of the**
37 **following:**

38 **(i) Dealing in or manufacturing cocaine or a narcotic**
39 **drug (IC 35-48-4-1).**

40 **(ii) Dealing in methamphetamine (IC 35-48-4-1.1).**

41 **(iii) Manufacturing methamphetamine**
42 **(IC 35-48-4-1.2).**

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1 (iv) Dealing in a schedule I, II, or III controlled
2 substance (IC 35-48-4-2).
3 (v) Dealing in a schedule IV controlled substance
4 (IC 35-48-4-3).
5 (vi) Dealing in a schedule V controlled substance
6 (IC 35-48-4-4).
7 (vii) Dealing in a counterfeit substance (IC 35-48-4-5).
8 (viii) Possession of cocaine or a narcotic drug
9 (IC 35-48-4-6).
10 (ix) Possession of methamphetamine (IC 35-48-4-6.1).
11 (x) Dealing in paraphernalia (IC 35-48-4-8.5).
12 (xi) Dealing in marijuana, hash oil, hashish, or salvia
13 (IC 35-48-4-10).
14 (xii) An offense under IC 35-48-4 involving a synthetic
15 drug (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-321), a synthetic drug
16 lookalike substance (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-321.5
17 (before its repeal on July 1, 2019)) under
18 IC 35-48-4-10.5 (before its repeal on July 1, 2019), a
19 controlled substance analog (as defined in
20 IC 35-48-1.1-8), or a substance represented to be a
21 controlled substance (as described in IC 35-48-4-4.6).
22 (B) Any stolen (IC 35-43-4-2 or IC 35-43-4-2.2) or
23 converted property (IC 35-43-4-3) if the retail or repurchase
24 value of that property is one hundred dollars (\$100) or
25 more.
26 (C) Any hazardous waste in violation of IC 13-30-10-1.5.
27 (D) A bomb (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-31) or weapon of
28 mass destruction (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-354) used to
29 commit, used in an attempt to commit, or used in a
30 conspiracy to commit a felony terrorist offense (as defined
31 in IC 35-50-2-18) or an offense under IC 35-47 as part of or
32 in furtherance of an act of terrorism (as defined by
33 IC 35-31.5-2-329).
34 (2) All money, negotiable instruments, securities, weapons,
35 communications devices, or any property used to commit, used
36 in an attempt to commit, or used in a conspiracy to commit a
37 felony terrorist offense (as defined in IC 35-50-2-18) or an
38 offense under IC 35-47 as part of or in furtherance of an act of
39 terrorism or commonly used as consideration for a violation of
40 IC 35-48-4 (other than items subject to forfeiture under
41 IC 16-42-20-5 or IC 16-6-8.5-5.1, before its repeal):

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1 (A) furnished or intended to be furnished by any person in
2 exchange for an act that is in violation of a criminal statute;
3 (B) used to facilitate any violation of a criminal statute; or
4 (C) traceable as proceeds of the violation of a criminal
5 statute.

6 (3) Any portion of real or personal property purchased with
7 money that is traceable as a proceed of a violation of a criminal
8 statute.

9 (4) A vehicle that is used by a person to:

10 (A) commit, attempt to commit, or conspire to commit;
11 (B) facilitate the commission of; or
12 (C) escape from the commission of;

murder (IC 35-42-1-1), dealing in a controlled substance resulting in death (IC 35-42-1-1.5), kidnapping (IC 35-42-3-2), criminal confinement (IC 35-42-3-3), rape (IC 35-42-4-1), child molesting (IC 35-42-4-3), or child exploitation (IC 35-42-4-4), **or a theft to which IC 35-43-4-2(a)(2)(B) applies, or** an offense under IC 35-47 as part of or in furtherance of an act of terrorism. (5) Real property owned by a person who uses it to commit any of the following as a Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4, or Level

20 of the following as a Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4, or Level
21 5 felony:
22 (A) Dealing in or manufacturing cocaine or a narcotic drug
23 (IC 35-48-4-1).

23 (IC 35-48-4-1).
24 (B) Dealing in methamphetamine (IC 35-48-4-1.1).
25 (C) Manufacturing methamphetamine (IC 35-48-4-1.2).

(C) Manufacturing methamphetamine (IC 35-48-4-12);
(D) Dealing in a schedule I, II, or III controlled substance (IC 35-48-4-2).

28 (E) Dealing in a schedule IV controlled substance
29 (IC 35-48-4-3).

30 (F) Dealing in marijuana, hash oil, hashish, or salvia
31 (IC 35-48-4-10).
32 (G) Dealing in cocaine, heroin, or fentanyl.

(G) Dealing in a synthetic drug (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-321) or synthetic drug lookalike substance (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-321.5 (before its repeal on July 1, 2019)) under IC 35-48-4-10.5 (before its repeal on July 1, 2019).

37 (H) Dealing in a controlled substance resulting in death
38 (IC 35-42-1-1.5).

39 (6) Equipment and recordings used by a person to commit fraud
40 under IC 35-43-5.

41 (7) Recordings sold, rented, transported, or possessed by a

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1 person in violation of IC 24-4-10.
2 (8) Property (as defined by IC 35-31.5-2-253) or an enterprise
3 (as defined by IC 35-45-6-1) that is the object of a corrupt
4 business influence violation (IC 35-45-6-2).
5 (9) Unlawful telecommunications devices (as defined in
6 IC 35-45-13-6) and plans, instructions, or publications used to
7 commit an offense under IC 35-45-13.
8 (10) Any equipment, including computer equipment and cellular
9 telephones, used for or intended for use in preparing,
10 photographing, recording, videotaping, digitizing, printing,
11 copying, or disseminating matter in violation of IC 35-42-4.
12 (11) Destructive devices used, possessed, transported, or sold in
13 violation of IC 35-47.5.
14 (12) Tobacco products that are sold in violation of IC 24-3-5,
15 tobacco products that a person attempts to sell in violation of
16 IC 24-3-5, and other personal property owned and used by a
17 person to facilitate a violation of IC 24-3-5.
18 (13) Property used by a person to commit counterfeiting or
19 forgery in violation of IC 35-43-5-2.
20 (14) After December 31, 2005, if a person is convicted of an
21 offense specified in IC 25-26-14-26(b) or IC 35-43-10, the
22 following real or personal property:
23 (A) Property used or intended to be used to commit,
24 facilitate, or promote the commission of the offense.
25 (B) Property constituting, derived from, or traceable to the
26 gross proceeds that the person obtained directly or
27 indirectly as a result of the offense.
28 (15) Except as provided in subsection (e), a vehicle used by a
29 person who operates the vehicle:
30 (A) while intoxicated, in violation of IC 9-30-5-1 through
31 IC 9-30-5-5, if in the previous five (5) years the person has
32 two (2) or more prior unrelated convictions for operating a
33 motor vehicle while intoxicated in violation of IC 9-30-5-1
34 through IC 9-30-5-5; or
35 (B) on a highway while the person's driving privileges are
36 suspended in violation of IC 9-24-19-2 through
37 IC 9-24-19-3, if in the previous five (5) years the person has
38 two (2) or more prior unrelated convictions for operating a
39 vehicle while intoxicated in violation of IC 9-30-5-1
40 through IC 9-30-5-5.
41 If a court orders the seizure of a vehicle under this subdivision,

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1 the court shall transmit an order to the bureau of motor vehicles
2 recommending that the bureau not permit a vehicle to be
3 registered in the name of the person whose vehicle was seized
4 until the person possesses a current driving license (as defined
5 in IC 9-13-2-41).

6 (16) The following real or personal property:

7 (A) Property used or intended to be used to commit,
8 facilitate, or promote the commission of an offense
9 specified in IC 23-14-48-9, IC 30-2-9-7(b), IC 30-2-10-9(b),
10 or IC 30-2-13-38(f).

11 (B) Property constituting, derived from, or traceable to the
12 gross proceeds that a person obtains directly or indirectly as
13 a result of an offense specified in IC 23-14-48-9,
14 IC 30-2-9-7(b), IC 30-2-10-9(b), or IC 30-2-13-38(f).

15 (17) Real or personal property, including a vehicle, that is used
16 by a person to:

17 (A) commit, attempt to commit, or conspire to commit;

18 (B) facilitate the commission of; or

19 (C) escape from the commission of;

20 a violation of IC 35-42-3.5-1 through IC 35-42-3.5-1.4 (human
21 trafficking) or IC 35-45-4-4 (promoting prostitution).

22 (18) A signal jammer (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-305.5) that is
23 used by a person to commit unlawful use of a signal jammer
24 under IC 35-45-2-6.

25 (b) A vehicle used by any person as a common or contract carrier
26 in the transaction of business as a common or contract carrier is not
27 subject to seizure under this section, unless it can be proven by a
28 preponderance of the evidence that the owner of the vehicle knowingly
29 permitted the vehicle to be used to engage in conduct that subjects it to
30 seizure under subsection (a).

31 (c) Equipment under subsection (a)(10) may not be seized unless
32 it can be proven by a preponderance of the evidence that the owner of
33 the equipment knowingly permitted the equipment to be used to engage
34 in conduct that subjects it to seizure under subsection (a)(10).

35 (d) Money, negotiable instruments, securities, weapons,
36 communications devices, or any property commonly used as
37 consideration for a violation of IC 35-48-4 found near or on a person
38 who is committing, attempting to commit, or conspiring to commit any
39 of the following offenses shall be admitted into evidence in an action
40 under this chapter as *prima facie* evidence that the money, negotiable
41 instrument, security, or other thing of value is property that has been



1 used or was to have been used to facilitate the violation of a criminal
2 statute or is the proceeds of the violation of a criminal statute:
3 (1) IC 35-42-1-1.5 (dealing in a controlled substance resulting in
4 death).
5 (2) IC 35-48-4-1 (dealing in or manufacturing cocaine or a
6 narcotic drug).
7 (3) IC 35-48-4-1.1 (dealing in methamphetamine).
8 (4) IC 35-48-4-1.2 (manufacturing methamphetamine).
9 (5) IC 35-48-4-2 (dealing in a schedule I, II, or III controlled
10 substance).
11 (6) IC 35-48-4-3 (dealing in a schedule IV controlled substance).
12 (7) IC 35-48-4-4 (dealing in a schedule V controlled substance)
13 as a Level 4 felony.
14 (8) IC 35-48-4-6 (possession of cocaine or a narcotic drug) as a
15 Level 3, Level 4, or Level 5 felony.
16 (9) IC 35-48-4-6.1 (possession of methamphetamine) as a Level
17 3, Level 4, or Level 5 felony.
18 (10) IC 35-48-4-10 (dealing in marijuana, hash oil, hashish, or
19 salvia) as a Level 5 felony.
20 (11) IC 35-48-4-10.5 (before its repeal on July 1, 2019) (dealing
21 in a synthetic drug or synthetic drug lookalike substance) as a
22 Level 5 felony or Level 6 felony (or as a Class C felony or Class
23 D felony under IC 35-48-4-10 before its amendment in 2013).
24 (e) A vehicle operated by a person who is not:
25 (1) an owner of the vehicle; or
26 (2) the spouse of the person who owns the vehicle;
27 is not subject to seizure under subsection (a)(15) unless it can be
28 proven by a preponderance of the evidence that the owner of the
29 vehicle knowingly permitted the vehicle to be used to engage in
30 conduct that subjects it to seizure under subsection (a)(15).
31 SECTION 6. IC 34-24-3-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.276-2019,
32 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
33 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. If a person has an unpaid claim on a liability
34 that is covered by IC 24-4.6-5 or suffers a pecuniary loss as a result of
35 a violation of **IC 25-37.5**, IC 35-43, IC 35-42-3-3, IC 35-42-3-4,
36 IC 35-45-9, or IC 35-46-10, the person may bring a civil action against
37 the person who caused the loss for the following:
38 (1) An amount not to exceed three (3) times:
39 (A) the actual damages of the person suffering the loss, in
40 the case of a liability that is not covered by IC 24-4.6-5; or
41 (B) the total pump price of the motor fuel received, in the

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1 case of a liability that is covered by IC 24-4.6-5.
 2 (2) The costs of the action.
 3 (3) A reasonable attorney's fee.
 4 (4) Actual travel expenses that are not otherwise reimbursed
 5 under subdivisions (1) through (3) and are incurred by the
 6 person suffering loss to:
 7 (A) have the person suffering loss or an employee or agent
 8 of that person file papers and attend court proceedings
 9 related to the recovery of a judgment under this chapter; or
 10 (B) provide witnesses to testify in court proceedings related
 11 to the recovery of a judgment under this chapter.
 12 (5) A reasonable amount to compensate the person suffering loss
 13 for time used to:
 14 (A) file papers and attend court proceedings related to the
 15 recovery of a judgment under this chapter; or
 16 (B) travel to and from activities described in clause (A).
 17 (6) Actual direct and indirect expenses incurred by the person
 18 suffering loss to compensate employees and agents for time used
 19 to:
 20 (A) file papers and attend court proceedings related to the
 21 recovery of a judgment under this chapter; or
 22 (B) travel to and from activities described in clause (A).
 23 (7) All other reasonable costs of collection.
 24 SECTION 7. IC 35-31.5-2-264.3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 25 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 26 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 264.3. "Purchase", for purposes
 27 of IC 35-43-4-3.3, has the meaning set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-1.**
 28 SECTION 8. IC 35-31.5-2-326.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 29 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 30 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 326.5. "Telecommunications
 31 network equipment", for purposes of IC 35-43-4-3.3, has the
 32 meaning set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-0.7.**
 33 SECTION 9. IC 35-31.5-2-345.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 34 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 35 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 345.5. "Valuable metal", for
 36 purposes of IC 35-43-4-3.3, has the meaning set forth in
 37 IC 25-37.5-1-1.**
 38 SECTION 10. IC 35-31.5-2-345.6 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 39 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 40 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 345.6. "Valuable metal dealer",
 41 for purposes of IC 35-43-4-3.3, has the meaning set forth in**



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

2 SECTION 11. IC 35-43-4-3.3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
3 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
4 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 3.3. (a) The following definitions**
5 **apply throughout this section:**

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

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

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

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

13 **(b) A valuable metal dealer who:**

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

16 (2) purchases stolen valuable metal;

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

18 **(c) A person who:**

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

21 **(2) sells stolen telecommunications network equipment;**
22 **commits concealment of the sale of telecommunications network**
23 **equipment, a Level 6 felony.**

24 SECTION 12. IC 35-52-25-61.5 IS REPEALED. [EFFECTIVE
25 JULY 1, 2026] See: 61.5: IC 25-37.5-1-7 defines a crime concerning
26 valuable metal dealers.

