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## SENATE BILL No. 271

AM027105 has been incorporated into January 14, 2026 printing.

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**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 or wireless communications service,**  
9 **including:**  
10 (A) **fiber;**  
11 (B) **sheathed copper cable; and**  
12 (C) **twisted-pair wire 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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(C) bus bars; and

**(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.

(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.

(c) A:

(1) person who possesses, sells, or attempts to sell telecommunications network equipment; or

(2) valuable metal dealer who possesses, purchases, or attempts to purchase telecommunications network equipment;

**in violation of this chapter commits a Class A infraction.**

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**(d) A person who:**

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

**(2) sells stolen telecommunications network equipment;**

**commits concealment of the sale of telecommunications network equipment, a Level 6 felony.**

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) A person may not possess, 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.

**(b) A valuable metal dealer that purchases telecommunications network equipment shall maintain an electronic copy of the certificate of ownership provided by the retail seller under subsection (a)(3) for two (2) years.**

SECTION 5. IC 34-24-1-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.186-2025, SECTION 184, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) The following may be seized:

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5 (A) A controlled substance for the purpose of committing,  
6 attempting to commit, or conspiring to commit any of the  
7 following:

10 (ii) Dealing in methamphetamine (IC 35-48-4-1.1).  
11 (iii) Manufacturing methamphetamine  
12 (IC 35-48-4-1.2).

13 (iv) Dealing in a schedule I, II, or III controlled  
14 substance (IC 35-48-4-2).

15 (v) Dealing in a schedule IV controlled substance  
16 (JC 35-48-4-3).

17 (vi) Dealing in a schedule V controlled substance  
18 (IC 35-48-4-4)

(vii) Dealing in a counterfeit substance (IC 35-48-4-5).  
(viii) Possession of cocaine or a narcotic drug.

(viii) Possession of cocaine or a narcotic drug (IC 35-48-4-6).

(ix) Possession of mictulampicthamine (IC 35-48-4-0.1).  
(x) Dealing in paraphernalia (IC 35-48-4-8.5).  
(xi) Dealing in marijuana, hash, hashish, or hash oil.

24 (xi) Dealing in marijuana, hash oil, hashish, or salvia  
25 (IC 35-48-4-10).  
26 (ii) An offense under IC 35-48-4 involving a synthetic

26 (xii) An offense under IC 35-48-4 involving a synthetic  
27 drug (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-321), a synthetic drug  
28 lookalike substance (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-321.5  
29 (before its repeal on July 1, 2019)) under  
30 IC 35-48-4-10.5 (before its repeal on July 1, 2019), a  
31 controlled substance analog (as defined in  
32 IC 35-48-1.1-8), or a substance represented to be a  
33 controlled substance (as described in IC 35-48-4-4.6).

34 (B) Any stolen (IC 35-43-4-2 or IC 35-43-4-2.2) or  
35 converted property (IC 35-43-4-3) if the retail or repurchase  
36 value of that property is one hundred dollars (\$100) or  
37 more.

38 (C) Any hazardous waste in violation of IC 13-30-10-1.5.

39 (D) A bomb (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-31) or weapon of  
40 mass destruction (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-354) used to  
41 commit, used in an attempt to commit, or used in a

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1 conspiracy to commit a felony terrorist offense (as defined  
2 in IC 35-50-2-18) or an offense under IC 35-47 as part of or  
3 in furtherance of an act of terrorism (as defined by  
4 IC 35-31.5-2-329).

5 (2) All money, negotiable instruments, securities, weapons,  
6 communications devices, or any property used to commit, used  
7 in an attempt to commit, or used in a conspiracy to commit a  
8 felony terrorist offense (as defined in IC 35-50-2-18) or an  
9 offense under IC 35-47 as part of or in furtherance of an act of  
10 terrorism or commonly used as consideration for a violation of  
11 IC 35-48-4 (other than items subject to forfeiture under  
12 IC 16-42-20-5 or IC 16-6-8.5-5.1, before its repeal):

13 (A) furnished or intended to be furnished by any person in  
14 exchange for an act that is in violation of a criminal statute;  
15 (B) used to facilitate any violation of a criminal statute; or  
16 (C) traceable as proceeds of the violation of a criminal  
17 statute.

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

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

23 (B) facilitate the commission of; or

24 (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

33                   5 felony:  
34                   (A) Dealing in or manufacturing cocaine or a narcotic drug  
35                   (IC 25-48-1)

(B) Decline in methamphetamine (IC 35-48-4-1-1).

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

(C) Manufacturing methamphetamine (IC 35-48-4-1.2).  
(D) Dealing in a schedule I, II, or III controlled substance  
(IC 35-48-4-2)

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



- (F) Dealing in marijuana, hash oil, hashish, or salvia (IC 35-48-4-10).
- (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).
- (H) Dealing in a controlled substance resulting in death (IC 35-42-1-1.5).
- (6) Equipment and recordings used by a person to commit fraud under IC 35-43-5.
- (7) Recordings sold, rented, transported, or possessed by a person in violation of IC 24-4-10.
- (8) Property (as defined by IC 35-31.5-2-253) or an enterprise (as defined by IC 35-45-6-1) that is the object of a corrupt business influence violation (IC 35-45-6-2).
- (9) Unlawful telecommunications devices (as defined in IC 35-45-13-6) and plans, instructions, or publications used to commit an offense under IC 35-45-13.
- (10) Any equipment, including computer equipment and cellular telephones, used for or intended for use in preparing, photographing, recording, videotaping, digitizing, printing, copying, or disseminating matter in violation of IC 35-42-4.
- (11) Destructive devices used, possessed, transported, or sold in violation of IC 35-47.5.
- (12) Tobacco products that are sold in violation of IC 24-3-5, tobacco products that a person attempts to sell in violation of IC 24-3-5, and other personal property owned and used by a person to facilitate a violation of IC 24-3-5.
- (13) Property used by a person to commit counterfeiting or forgery in violation of IC 35-43-5-2.
- (14) After December 31, 2005, if a person is convicted of an offense specified in IC 25-26-14-26(b) or IC 35-43-10, the following real or personal property:
  - (A) Property used or intended to be used to commit, facilitate, or promote the commission of the offense.
  - (B) Property constituting, derived from, or traceable to the gross proceeds that the person obtained directly or indirectly as a result of the offense.
- (15) Except as provided in subsection (e), a vehicle used by a person who operates the vehicle:

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1 (A) while intoxicated, in violation of IC 9-30-5-1 through  
2 IC 9-30-5-5, if in the previous five (5) years the person has  
3 two (2) or more prior unrelated convictions for operating a  
4 motor vehicle while intoxicated in violation of IC 9-30-5-1  
5 through IC 9-30-5-5; or  
6 (B) on a highway while the person's driving privileges are  
7 suspended in violation of IC 9-24-19-2 through  
8 IC 9-24-19-3, if in the previous five (5) years the person has  
9 two (2) or more prior unrelated convictions for operating a  
10 vehicle while intoxicated in violation of IC 9-30-5-1  
11 through IC 9-30-5-5.

If a court orders the seizure of a vehicle under this subdivision, the court shall transmit an order to the bureau of motor vehicles recommending that the bureau not permit a vehicle to be registered in the name of the person whose vehicle was seized until the person possesses a current driving license (as defined in IC 9-13-2-41).

18 (16) The following real or personal property:

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

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

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

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

30 (B) facilitate the commission of; or

31 (C) escape from the commission of;

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

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

37 (b) A vehicle used by any person as a common or contract carrier  
38 in the transaction of business as a common or contract carrier is not  
39 subject to seizure under this section, unless it can be proven by a  
40 preponderance of the evidence that the owner of the vehicle knowingly  
41 permitted the vehicle to be used to engage in conduct that subjects it to

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1 seizure under subsection (a).

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

6 (d) Money, negotiable instruments, securities, weapons,  
7 communications devices, or any property commonly used as  
8 consideration for a violation of IC 35-48-4 found near or on a person  
9 who is committing, attempting to commit, or conspiring to commit any  
10 of the following offenses shall be admitted into evidence in an action  
11 under this chapter as *prima facie* evidence that the money, negotiable  
12 instrument, security, or other thing of value is property that has been  
13 used or was to have been used to facilitate the violation of a criminal  
14 statute or is the proceeds of the violation of a criminal statute:

15 (1) IC 35-42-1-1.5 (dealing in a controlled substance resulting in  
16 death).

17 (2) IC 35-48-4-1 (dealing in or manufacturing cocaine or a  
18 narcotic drug).

19 (3) IC 35-48-4-1.1 (dealing in methamphetamine).

20 (4) IC 35-48-4-1.2 (manufacturing methamphetamine).

21 (5) IC 35-48-4-2 (dealing in a schedule I, II, or III controlled  
22 substance).

23 (6) IC 35-48-4-3 (dealing in a schedule IV controlled substance).

24 (7) IC 35-48-4-4 (dealing in a schedule V controlled substance)  
25 as a Level 4 felony.

26 (8) IC 35-48-4-6 (possession of cocaine or a narcotic drug) as a  
27 Level 3, Level 4, or Level 5 felony.

28 (9) IC 35-48-4-6.1 (possession of methamphetamine) as a Level  
29 3, Level 4, or Level 5 felony.

30 (10) IC 35-48-4-10 (dealing in marijuana, hash oil, hashish, or  
31 salvia) as a Level 5 felony.

32 (11) IC 35-48-4-10.5 (before its repeal on July 1, 2019) (dealing  
33 in a synthetic drug or synthetic drug lookalike substance) as a  
34 Level 5 felony or Level 6 felony (or as a Class C felony or Class  
35 D felony under IC 35-48-4-10 before its amendment in 2013).

36 (e) A vehicle operated by a person who is not:

37 (1) an owner of the vehicle; or

38 (2) the spouse of the person who owns the vehicle;

39 is not subject to seizure under subsection (a)(15) unless it can be  
40 proven by a preponderance of the evidence that the owner of the  
41 vehicle knowingly permitted the vehicle to be used to engage in



1 conduct that subjects it to seizure under subsection (a)(15).

2 SECTION 6. IC 34-24-3-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.276-2019,  
3 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
4 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. If a person has an unpaid claim on a liability  
5 that is covered by IC 24-4.6-5 or suffers a pecuniary loss as a result of  
6 a violation of **IC 25-37.5**, IC 35-43, IC 35-42-3-3, IC 35-42-3-4,  
7 IC 35-45-9, or IC 35-46-10, the person may bring a civil action against  
8 the person who caused the loss for the following:

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

10 (A) the actual damages of the person suffering the loss, in  
11 the case of a liability that is not covered by IC 24-4.6-5; or  
12 (B) the total pump price of the motor fuel received, in the  
13 case of a liability that is covered by IC 24-4.6-5.

14 (2) The costs of the action.

15 (3) A reasonable attorney's fee.

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

19 (A) have the person suffering loss or an employee or agent  
20 of that person file papers and attend court proceedings  
21 related to the recovery of a judgment under this chapter; or  
22 (B) provide witnesses to testify in court proceedings related  
23 to the recovery of a judgment under this chapter.

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

26 (A) file papers and attend court proceedings related to the  
27 recovery of a judgment under this chapter; or  
28 (B) travel to and from activities described in clause (A).

29 (6) Actual direct and indirect expenses incurred by the person  
30 suffering loss to compensate employees and agents for time used  
31 to:

32 (A) file papers and attend court proceedings related to the  
33 recovery of a judgment under this chapter; or  
34 (B) travel to and from activities described in clause (A).

35 (7) All other reasonable costs of collection.

