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SENATE BILL No. 271

Proposed Changes to January 14, 2026 printing by AM027105

DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Wireless. Specifies that telecommunications network equipment includes certain wireless equipment, requires certain records to be retained for two years, and prohibits possession of certain telecommunications network equipment.

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**
9 **service, 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;**
18 **(C) bus bars; and**
19 **(D) copper ground support structures;**

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1 **and all associated aerial or ground based cable lines or equipment**
 2 **used as part of a telecommunications or broadband network.**

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

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

9 (2) does not include the following:

10 (A) A beverage can.

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

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

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

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

25 SECTION 3. IC 25-37.5-1-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.70-2021,
 26 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 27 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) A valuable metal dealer who fails to comply
 28 with this chapter commits a Class A infraction.

29 (b) A valuable metal dealer who:

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

31 and

32 (2) purchases stolen valuable metal;

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

34 (c) A:

35 (1) **person who [possesses,]sells[,] or attempts to sell**
 36 **telecommunications network equipment; or**

37 (2) **valuable metal dealer who [possesses,]purchases[,] or**
 38 **attempts to purchase telecommunications network**
 39 **equipment;**

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

41 (d) **A person who:**

42 **(1) knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with this**

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

14 (2) the seller:

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

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

25 (3) the seller is a retail seller that possesses a certificate of
26 ownership signed by an employee of the telecommunications
27 company stating that the seller is the lawful owner of the
28 telecommunications network equipment. This certificate of
29 ownership must be provided on the telecommunications
30 company business letterhead and must provide the date that
31 the telecommunications network equipment was acquired by
32 the seller and a description of how the telecommunications
33 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.

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

41 (1) All vehicles (as defined by IC 35-31.5-2-346), if they are
42 used or are intended for use by the person or persons in



1 possession of them to transport or in any manner to facilitate the
2 transportation of the following:

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

6 (i) Dealing in or manufacturing cocaine or a narcotic
7 drug (IC 35-48-4-1).

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

9 (iii) Manufacturing methamphetamine
10 (IC 35-48-4-1.2).

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

13 (v) Dealing in a schedule IV controlled substance
14 (IC 35-48-4-3).

15 (vi) Dealing in a schedule V controlled substance
16 (IC 35-48-4-4).

17 (vii) Dealing in a counterfeit substance (IC 35-48-4-5).

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

20 (ix) Possession of methamphetamine (IC 35-48-4-6.1).

21 (x) Dealing in paraphernalia (IC 35-48-4-8.5).

22 (xi) Dealing in marijuana, hash oil, hashish, or salvia
23 (IC 35-48-4-10).

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

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

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

37 (D) A bomb (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-31) or weapon of
38 mass destruction (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-354) used to
39 commit, used in an attempt to commit, or used in a
40 conspiracy to commit a felony terrorist offense (as defined
41 in IC 35-50-2-18) or an offense under IC 35-47 as part of or
42 in furtherance of an act of terrorism (as defined by

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IC 35-31.5-2-329).

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

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

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

19 (A) commit, attempt to commit, or conspire to commit;
20 (B) facilitate the commission of; or
21 (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.

28 (5) Real property owned by a person who uses it to commit any
29 of the following as a Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4, or Level
30 5 felony:

32 (IC 35-48-4-1).
33 (B) Dealing in methamphetamine (IC 35-48-4-1-1)

33 (B) Dealing in methamphetamine (JC 35-48-4-1.1).
34 (C) Manufacturing methamphetamine (JC 35-48-4-1.2)

34 (C) Manufacturing
35 (D) Dealing in

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

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

38 (IC 35-48-13).
39 (F) Dealing in marijuana, hash oil, hashish, or salvia
40 (IC 35-48-4-10).

(G) Dealing in a synthetic drug (as defined in IC 25-21-5-2(22)).

42 IC 35-31.5-2-321) or synthetic drug lookalike substance (as

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1 defined in IC 35-31.5-2-321.5 (before its repeal on July 1,
2 2019)) under IC 35-48-4-10.5 (before its repeal on July 1,
3 2019).

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

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

8 (7) Recordings sold, rented, transported, or possessed by a
9 person in violation of IC 24-4-10.

10 (8) Property (as defined by IC 35-31.5-2-253) or an enterprise
11 (as defined by IC 35-45-6-1) that is the object of a corrupt
12 business influence violation (IC 35-45-6-2).

13 (9) Unlawful telecommunications devices (as defined in
14 IC 35-45-13-6) and plans, instructions, or publications used to
15 commit an offense under IC 35-45-13.

16 (10) Any equipment, including computer equipment and cellular
17 telephones, used for or intended for use in preparing,
18 photographing, recording, videotaping, digitizing, printing,
19 copying, or disseminating matter in violation of IC 35-42-4.

20 (11) Destructive devices used, possessed, transported, or sold in
21 violation of IC 35-47.5.

22 (12) Tobacco products that are sold in violation of IC 24-3-5,
23 tobacco products that a person attempts to sell in violation of
24 IC 24-3-5, and other personal property owned and used by a
25 person to facilitate a violation of IC 24-3-5.

26 (13) Property used by a person to commit counterfeiting or
27 forgery in violation of IC 35-43-5-2.

28 (14) After December 31, 2005, if a person is convicted of an
29 offense specified in IC 25-26-14-26(b) or IC 35-43-10, the
30 following real or personal property:

31 (A) Property used or intended to be used to commit,
32 facilitate, or promote the commission of the offense.

33 (B) Property constituting, derived from, or traceable to the
34 gross proceeds that the person obtained directly or
35 indirectly as a result of the offense.

36 (15) Except as provided in subsection (e), a vehicle used by a
37 person who operates the vehicle:

38 (A) while intoxicated, in violation of IC 9-30-5-1 through
39 IC 9-30-5-5, if in the previous five (5) years the person has
40 two (2) or more prior unrelated convictions for operating a
41 motor vehicle while intoxicated in violation of IC 9-30-5-1
42 through IC 9-30-5-5; or



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

13 (16) The following real or personal property:

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

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

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

24 (A) commit, attempt to commit, or conspire to commit;
25 (B) facilitate the commission of; or
26 (C) escape from the commission of;

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

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

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

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

42 (d) Money, negotiable instruments, securities, weapons,

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1 communications devices, or any property commonly used as
 2 consideration for a violation of IC 35-48-4 found near or on a person
 3 who is committing, attempting to commit, or conspiring to commit any
 4 of the following offenses shall be admitted into evidence in an action
 5 under this chapter as *prima facie* evidence that the money, negotiable
 6 instrument, security, or other thing of value is property that has been
 7 used or was to have been used to facilitate the violation of a criminal
 8 statute or is the proceeds of the violation of a criminal statute:

9 (1) IC 35-42-1-1.5 (dealing in a controlled substance resulting in
 10 death).
 11 (2) IC 35-48-4-1 (dealing in or manufacturing cocaine or a
 12 narcotic drug).
 13 (3) IC 35-48-4-1.1 (dealing in methamphetamine).
 14 (4) IC 35-48-4-1.2 (manufacturing methamphetamine).
 15 (5) IC 35-48-4-2 (dealing in a schedule I, II, or III controlled
 16 substance).
 17 (6) IC 35-48-4-3 (dealing in a schedule IV controlled substance).
 18 (7) IC 35-48-4-4 (dealing in a schedule V controlled substance)
 19 as a Level 4 felony.
 20 (8) IC 35-48-4-6 (possession of cocaine or a narcotic drug) as a
 21 Level 3, Level 4, or Level 5 felony.
 22 (9) IC 35-48-4-6.1 (possession of methamphetamine) as a Level
 23 3, Level 4, or Level 5 felony.
 24 (10) IC 35-48-4-10 (dealing in marijuana, hash oil, hashish, or
 25 salvia) as a Level 5 felony.
 26 (11) IC 35-48-4-10.5 (before its repeal on July 1, 2019) (dealing
 27 in a synthetic drug or synthetic drug lookalike substance) as a
 28 Level 5 felony or Level 6 felony (or as a Class C felony or Class
 29 D felony under IC 35-48-4-10 before its amendment in 2013).

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

31 (1) an owner of the vehicle; or
 32 (2) the spouse of the person who owns the vehicle;

33 is not subject to seizure under subsection (a)(15) unless it can be
 34 proven by a preponderance of the evidence that the owner of the
 35 vehicle knowingly permitted the vehicle to be used to engage in
 36 conduct that subjects it to seizure under subsection (a)(15).

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

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1 the person who caused the loss for the following:

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

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

7 (2) The costs of the action.

8 (3) A reasonable attorney's fee.

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

12 (A) have the person suffering loss or an employee or agent
13 of that person file papers and attend court proceedings
14 related to the recovery of a judgment under this chapter; or
15 (B) provide witnesses to testify in court proceedings related
16 to the recovery of a judgment under this chapter.

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

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

22 (6) Actual direct and indirect expenses incurred by the person
23 suffering loss to compensate employees and agents for time used
24 to:

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

28 (7) All other reasonable costs of collection.1

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