
SENATE BILL No. 271

AM027106 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 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. **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 possesses, 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 IC 35-43-4-3.3.

SECTION 4. IC 25-37.5-1-11 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA

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1 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
2 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 11. (a) A person may not possess,
3 sell, or attempt to sell, and a valuable metal dealer may not
4 purchase or attempt to purchase, telecommunications network
5 equipment in any amount, unless:

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

9 (2) the seller:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

40 (A) A controlled substance for the purpose of committing,
41 attempting to commit, or conspiring to commit any of the
42 following:



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

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

15 (A) commit, attempt to commit, or conspire to commit;
16 (B) facilitate the commission of; or
17 (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 5 felony:

27 (A) Dealing in or manufacturing cocaine or a narcotic drug
28 (IC 35-48-4-1).

29 (B) Dealing in methamphetamine (IC 35-48-4-1.1).

30 (C) Manufacturing methamphetamine (IC 35-48-4-1.2).

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

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

35 (F) Dealing in marijuana, hash oil, hashish, or salvia
36 (IC 35-48-4-10).

37 (G) Dealing in a synthetic drug (as defined in
38 IC 35-31.5-2-321) or synthetic drug lookalike substance (as
39 defined in IC 35-31.5-2-321.5 (before its repeal on July 1,
40 2019)) under IC 35-48-4-10.5 (before its repeal on July 1,
41 2019).

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(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:

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

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1 IC 9-24-19-3, if in the previous five (5) years the person has
2 two (2) or more prior unrelated convictions for operating a
3 vehicle while intoxicated in violation of IC 9-30-5-1
4 through IC 9-30-5-5.

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

11 (16) The following real or personal property:

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

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

20 (17) Real or personal property, including a vehicle, that is used
21 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;

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

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

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

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

40 (d) Money, negotiable instruments, securities, weapons,
41 communications devices, or any property commonly used as



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

8 (1) IC 35-42-1-1.5 (dealing in a controlled substance resulting in
9 death).
10 (2) IC 35-48-4-1 (dealing in or manufacturing cocaine or a
11 narcotic drug).
12 (3) IC 35-48-4-1.1 (dealing in methamphetamine).
13 (4) IC 35-48-4-1.2 (manufacturing methamphetamine).
14 (5) IC 35-48-4-2 (dealing in a schedule I, II, or III controlled
15 substance).
16 (6) IC 35-48-4-3 (dealing in a schedule IV controlled substance).
17 (7) IC 35-48-4-4 (dealing in a schedule V controlled substance)
18 as a Level 4 felony.
19 (8) IC 35-48-4-6 (possession of cocaine or a narcotic drug) as a
20 Level 3, Level 4, or Level 5 felony.
21 (9) IC 35-48-4-6.1 (possession of methamphetamine) as a Level
22 3, Level 4, or Level 5 felony.
23 (10) IC 35-48-4-10 (dealing in marijuana, hash oil, hashish, or
24 salvia) as a Level 5 felony.
25 (11) IC 35-48-4-10.5 (before its repeal on July 1, 2019) (dealing
26 in a synthetic drug or synthetic drug lookalike substance) as a
27 Level 5 felony or Level 6 felony (or as a Class C felony or Class
28 D felony under IC 35-48-4-10 before its amendment in 2013).
29 (e) A vehicle operated by a person who is not:
30 (1) an owner of the vehicle; or
31 (2) the spouse of the person who owns the vehicle;

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

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



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.

29 SECTION 7. IC 35-31.5-2-264.3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
30 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
31 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 264.3. "Purchase", for purposes
32 of IC 35-43-4-3.3, has the meaning set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-1.**

33 SECTION 8. IC 35-31.5-2-326.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
34 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
35 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 326.5. "Telecommunications
36 network equipment", for purposes of IC 35-43-4-3.3, has the
37 meaning set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-0.7.**

38 SECTION 9. IC 35-31.5-2-345.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
39 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
40 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 345.5. "Valuable metal", for
41 purposes of IC 35-43-4-3.3, has the meaning set forth in**



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

2 SECTION 10. IC 35-31.5-2-345.6 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
3 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
4 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 345.6. "Valuable metal dealer",
5 for purposes of IC 35-43-4-3.3, has the meaning set forth in
6 **IC 25-37.5-1-1.**

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

- 11 (1) "Purchase" has the meaning set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-1.
- 12 (2) "Telecommunications network equipment" has the
13 meaning set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-0.7.
- 14 (3) "Valuable metal" has the meaning set forth in
15 IC 25-37.5-1-1.
- 16 (4) "Valuable metal dealer" has the meaning set forth in
17 IC 25-37.5-1-1.

18 (b) A valuable metal dealer who:

- 19 (1) knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with
20 IC 25-37.5-1; and
- 21 (2) purchases stolen valuable metal;

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

23 (c) A person who:

- 24 (1) knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with
25 IC 25-37.5-1; and
- 26 (2) sells stolen telecommunications network equipment;
27 commits concealment of the sale of telecommunications network
28 equipment, a Level 6 felony.

29 SECTION 12. IC 35-52-25-61.5 IS REPEALED. [EFFECTIVE
30 JULY 1, 2026] Sec. 61.5. IC 25-37.5-1-7 defines a crime concerning
31 valuable metal dealers.

