
SENATE BILL No. 271

AM027108 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.

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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; and**
- 11 **(B) cable consisting of six (6) or more twisted pairs of**
- 12 **wire, with or 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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1 **(C) bus bars; and**
 2 **(D) copper ground support structures;**
 3 **and all associated aerial or ground based cable lines or equipment**
 4 **used as part of a telecommunications or broadband network.**

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

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

11 (2) does not include the following:

12 (A) A beverage can.

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

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

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

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

27 SECTION 3. IC 25-37.5-1-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.224-2013,
 28 SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 29 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) Except as provided in section 5 of this
 30 chapter, every valuable metal dealer shall hold each purchase of
 31 valuable metal:

32 (1) requiring notification, for at least five (5) working days from
 33 the date of notification; or

34 (2) **that is telecommunications network equipment, for at**
 35 **least thirty (30) calendar days from the date of purchase.**

36 **(b) A purchase described in subsection (a) shall be held:**

37 (1) at the regular place of business of the valuable metal dealer;
 38 and

39 (2) separate and apart, so that it is readily identifiable from all
 40 other purchases.

41 (c) During ~~this~~ **the period described in subsection (b)**, a valuable

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1 metal dealer may not change the form of the valuable metal, and shall
 2 permit any law enforcement officer to make inspection of the valuable
 3 metal purchased.

4 SECTION 4. IC 25-37.5-1-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.70-2021,
 5 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 6 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) A valuable metal dealer who fails to comply
 7 with this chapter commits a Class A infraction. **In addition, the**
 8 **valuable metal dealer may be subject to a criminal penalty under**
 9 **IC 35-43-4-3.3.**

10 (b) ~~A valuable metal dealer who:~~

11 (1) ~~knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with this chapter;~~
 12 ~~and~~

13 (2) ~~purchases stolen valuable metal;~~

14 ~~commits concealing a valuable metal purchase; a Level 6 felony:~~

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

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

23 (A) the actual damages of the person suffering the loss, in
 24 the case of a liability that is not covered by IC 24-4.6-5; or

25 (B) the total pump price of the motor fuel received, in the
 26 case of a liability that is covered by IC 24-4.6-5.

27 (2) The costs of the action.

28 (3) A reasonable attorney's fee.

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

32 (A) have the person suffering loss or an employee or agent
 33 of that person file papers and attend court proceedings
 34 related to the recovery of a judgment under this chapter; or

35 (B) provide witnesses to testify in court proceedings related
 36 to the recovery of a judgment under this chapter.

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

39 (A) file papers and attend court proceedings related to the
 40 recovery of a judgment under this chapter; or

41 (B) travel to and from activities described in clause (A).

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1 (6) Actual direct and indirect expenses incurred by the person
 2 suffering loss to compensate employees and agents for time used
 3 to:

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

7 (7) All other reasonable costs of collection.

8 SECTION 6. IC 35-31.5-2-264.3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 9 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 10 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 264.3. "Purchase", for purposes**
 11 **of IC 35-43-4-3.3, has the meaning set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-1.**

12 SECTION 7. IC 35-31.5-2-326.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 13 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 14 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 326.5. "Telecommunications**
 15 **network equipment", for purposes of IC 35-43-4-3.3, has the**
 16 **meaning set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-0.7.**

17 SECTION 8. IC 35-31.5-2-345.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 18 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 19 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 345.5. "Valuable metal", for**
 20 **purposes of IC 35-43-4-3.3, has the meaning set forth in**
 21 **IC 25-37.5-1-1.**

22 SECTION 9. IC 35-31.5-2-345.6 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 23 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 24 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 345.6. "Valuable metal dealer",**
 25 **for purposes of IC 35-43-4-3.3, has the meaning set forth in**
 26 **IC 25-37.5-1-1.**

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

- 31 (1) "Purchase" has the meaning set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-1.
 32 (2) "Telecommunications network equipment" has the
 33 meaning set forth in IC 25-37.5-1-0.7.
 34 (3) "Valuable metal" has the meaning set forth in
 35 IC 25-37.5-1-1.
 36 (4) "Valuable metal dealer" has the meaning set forth in
 37 IC 25-37.5-1-1.

38 (b) A valuable metal dealer who:

- 39 (1) knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with
 40 IC 25-37.5-1; and
 41 (2) purchases stolen valuable metal;
 42 commits concealing a valuable metal purchase, a Level 6 felony.

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1 SECTION 11. IC 35-52-25-61.5 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE
2 JULY 1, 2026]. ~~Sec. 61.5. IC 25-37.5-1-7 defines a crime concerning~~
3 ~~valuable metal dealers.~~

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