



February 19, 2026

---

---

# ENGROSSED SENATE BILL No. 284

---

DIGEST OF SB 284 (Updated February 19, 2026 9:13 am - DI 140)

**Citations Affected:** IC 36-8.

**Synopsis:** Law enforcement civilian oversight boards. Provides that any type of law enforcement civilian oversight board or commission or any other entity established by a county, municipality, or township to provide civilian oversight over a law enforcement agency, excluding merit boards and commissions, may operate only in an advisory capacity to the applicable law enforcement agency and does not have binding authority over the law enforcement agency.

**Effective:** July 1, 2026.

---

---

## Carrasco, Freeman, Clark

(HOUSE SPONSORS — ZIMMERMAN, MCGUIRE, BEHNING)

---

---

January 12, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Corrections and Criminal Law.

January 20, 2026, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass.

January 22, 2026, read second time, ordered engrossed. Engrossed.

January 26, 2026, read third time, passed. Yeas 38, nays 6.

### HOUSE ACTION

January 28, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Veterans Affairs and Public Safety.

February 19, 2026, reported — Do Pass.

---

---

ES 284—LS 6984/DI 116





February 19, 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.

## ENGROSSED SENATE BILL No. 284

---

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning local government.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1           SECTION 1. IC 36-8-29.1 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2026]:  
4           **Chapter 29.1. Law Enforcement Civilian Oversight Boards and**  
5 **Commissions**  
6           **Sec. 1. This chapter applies to all units.**  
7           **Sec. 2. This chapter does not apply to a merit board or**  
8 **commission established under IC 36-8-3.5.**  
9           **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "law enforcement agency" has**  
10 **the meaning set forth in IC 35-31.5-2-183.**  
11           **Sec. 4. Except as provided in section 2 of this chapter, any type**  
12 **of law enforcement civilian oversight board or commission or any**  
13 **other entity established by a unit to provide civilian oversight over**  
14 **a law enforcement agency in existence on July 1, 2026, or**  
15 **established after June 30, 2026, may operate only in an advisory**  
16 **capacity to the applicable law enforcement agency and does not**  
17 **have binding authority over the law enforcement agency.**

ES 284—LS 6984/DI 116



COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. President: The Senate Committee on Corrections and Criminal Law, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 284, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

Page 1, line 14, after "agency" insert "**in existence on July 1, 2026, or established after June 30, 2026,**".

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 284 as introduced.)

FREEMAN, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 6, Nays 2.

---

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Veterans Affairs and Public Safety, to which was referred Senate Bill 284, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 284 as printed January 21, 2026.)

BARTELS

Committee Vote: Yeas 9, Nays 2

