

SENATE BILL No. 285

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 5-20-1-28; IC 10-11-2-36; IC 35-52-36-0.5; IC 36-1-31.5.

Synopsis: Housing matters. Requires the Indiana housing and community development authority (authority) to establish eligibility criteria for a potential recipient to be included in the authority's application for funding under the federal continuum of care program (program). Requires a recipient of program funding to submit an annual report to the authority. Prohibits an individual from camping, sleeping, or using for long term shelter land owned by the state or a political subdivision, unless the land has been authorized for that use under the provisions added by the bill or another law. Provides, if certain elements are met, that a person who knowingly or intentionally uses land owned by the state or a political subdivision for unauthorized camping, sleeping, or long term shelter commits a Class C misdemeanor. Prohibits a political subdivision from adopting or enforcing any policy that prohibits or discourages the enforcement of any order or ordinance prohibiting public camping, sleeping, or other obstruction of a sidewalk. Authorizes a resident of the political subdivision, an owner of a business located in the political subdivision, or the attorney general to bring a civil action to enjoin a political subdivision that adopts or enforces such a policy. Requires: (1) each local law enforcement agency to provide to the state police department the number of arrests made for violations of the prohibition of street camping; and (2) the state police department to provide this information to the authority.

Effective: July 1, 2026.

Carrasco

January 12, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Judiciary.



Introduced

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. 285

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 5-20-1-28 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
3 1, 2026]: **Sec. 28. (a) The authority shall establish eligibility**
4 **criteria, in accordance with federal law, for a potential recipient to**
5 **be included in the authority's application for funding under the**
6 **federal Continuum of Care program (24 CFR Part 578).**

7 **(b) On an annual basis and in a manner prescribed by the**
8 **authority, each recipient of funds distributed by the authority**
9 **under the federal Continuum of Care program (24 CFR Part 578)**
10 **shall submit a report to the authority summarizing:**

11 **(1) information concerning the recipient's efforts to address**
12 **unsheltered homelessness; and**
13 **(2) whether the recipient reduced unsheltered homelessness.**

14 SECTION 2. IC 10-11-2-36 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
15 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
16 1, 2026]: **Sec. 36. Not later than July 1 of each year, the state police**
17 **department shall provide to the Indiana housing and community**



1 development authority the information received under
 2 **IC 36-1-31.5-4.**

3 SECTION 3. IC 35-52-36-0.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 4 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 5 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 0.5. IC 36-1-31.5-1 defines a
 6 crime concerning the unauthorized use of land owned by the state
 7 or a political subdivision to camp, sleep, or use for long term
 8 shelter.

9 SECTION 4. IC 36-1-31.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
 10 AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 11 JULY 1, 2026]:

12 **Chapter 31.5. Prohibition of Street Camping**

13 **Sec. 1. (a) A person may not camp, sleep, or use for long term**
 14 **shelter land owned by the state or a political subdivision, unless the**
 15 **land has been authorized for that use by law.**

16 **(b) If:**

17 **(1) a person violates subsection (a); and**
 18 **(2) the person has not previously violated subsection (a);**
 19 **the law enforcement officer who discovers the violation shall first**
 20 **give the person a warning and offer to transport the person to a**
 21 **location authorized by law to receive services or shelter, including**
 22 **a facility authorized to receive an individual under IC 12-26-5.**

23 **(c) A person who knowingly or intentionally violates subsection**
 24 **(a) after:**

25 **(1) having first received a warning under subsection (b); and**
 26 **(2) twenty-four (24) hours have elapsed since the warning was**
 27 **given under subsection (b);**
 28 **commits a Class C misdemeanor.**

29 **(d) A person charged with an offense under subsection (c) is**
 30 **eligible to participate in a diversion program, including a forensic**
 31 **diversion program under IC 11-12-3.7.**

32 **Sec. 2. The court may refer a person charged with an offense**
 33 **under section 1 of this chapter for evaluation and treatment under**
 34 **IC 33-23-18-6.**

35 **Sec. 3. (a) A political subdivision shall not adopt or enforce any**
 36 **policy under which the political subdivision prohibits or**
 37 **discourages the enforcement of any order or ordinance prohibiting**
 38 **public camping, sleeping, or other obstruction of a sidewalk.**

39 **(b) In compliance with subsection (a), a political subdivision**
 40 **shall not prohibit or discourage a law enforcement officer or**
 41 **prosecuting attorney who is employed by or otherwise under the**
 42 **direction or control of the political subdivision from enforcing any**



1 **order or ordinance prohibiting public camping, sleeping, or other**
2 **obstruction of a sidewalk.**

3 **(c) A resident of the political subdivision, an owner of a business**
4 **located in the political subdivision, or the attorney general may**
5 **bring a civil action in any court with jurisdiction against any**
6 **political subdivision to enjoin the political subdivision from**
7 **violating this section.**

8 **(d) The attorney general may recover reasonable expenses**
9 **incurred in any civil action brought under this section, including**
10 **court costs, reasonable attorney's fees, investigative costs, witness**
11 **fees, and deposition costs.**

12 **Sec. 4. Not later than March 1 of each year, each local law**
13 **enforcement agency shall provide to the state police department**
14 **the number of arrests made for violations of section 1 of this**
15 **chapter by the law enforcement agency during the preceding**
16 **calendar year.**

17 **Sec. 5. This chapter does not prohibit a policy of any political**
18 **subdivision that encourages diversion programs or offering of**
19 **services in lieu of a citation or arrest.**

