

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.



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**



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

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

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

Chapter 31.5. Prohibition of Street Camping

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

(b) If:

(1) a person violates subsection (a); and

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

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

(1) having first received a warning under subsection (b); and

(2) twenty-four (24) hours have elapsed since the warning was given under subsection (b);

commits a Class C misdemeanor.

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

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

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

(b) In compliance with subsection (a), a political subdivision shall not prohibit or discourage a law enforcement officer or prosecuting attorney who is employed by or otherwise under the 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.

