

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7097

BILL NUMBER: SB 285

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 5, 2026

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Housing Matters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Carrasco

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) 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). It also requires a recipient of program funding to submit an annual report to the authority.

The bill also 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. It 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.

This bill also 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. It 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.

It also 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 Date: July 1, 2026.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Office of the Attorney General (AG):* The bill grants the Attorney General the discretion to bring civil action against political subdivisions that discourage the enforcement of public camping prohibitions. The Attorney General can implement the bill with existing staff and resources.

State Police Department: This bill's provisions require the state police to submit an annual report to the IHCDA. This may cause a minor administrative workload increase that can be implemented with existing

staff and resources.

Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA): The bill's provisions require the IHCDA to review annual reports the state police and from recipients of funds distributed by the authority under the federal Continuum of Care program. This will cause a minor workload increase for the authority that can be implemented with existing staff and resources.

Explanation of State Revenues: *Office of the Attorney General (AG):* If the AG files a civil action against a political subdivision and prevails, the AG may recover reasonable expenses, including court costs, reasonable attorney's fees, investigative costs, witness fees, and deposition costs.

Civil Actions: If additional civil cases occur and court fees are collected, revenue to the state General Fund will increase. The total revenue per case would range between \$100 and \$122. The amount deposited will vary depending on whether the case is filed in a court of record or a municipal court. The following linked document describes the fees and distribution of the revenue: [Court fees imposed in civil, probate, and small claims cases.](#)

Criminal Penalty: If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund and the state General Fund would increase. The maximum fine for a Class C misdemeanor is \$500. Criminal fines are deposited in the Common School Fund. The total fee revenue per case would range between \$113 and \$138. The amount of court fees deposited will vary depending on whether the case is filed in a court of record or a municipal court. The following linked document describes the fees and distribution of the revenue: [Court fees imposed in criminal, juvenile, and civil violation cases.](#)

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Civil Actions:* If civil actions are filed against a political subdivision, local expenditures may increase to pay for the cost of litigation and court fees. The specific impact would depend on local action.

Criminal Penalty: The bill provides that a person who knowingly or intentionally uses land owned by the state or a political subdivision for unauthorized camping, sleeping, or for long-term shelter commits a Class C misdemeanor. [A Class C misdemeanor is punishable by up to 60 days in jail. The Gateway reports show that in CY 2023, housing offenders in 33 Indiana county jails cost an average of \$56 to \$79 per day.]

Local Law Enforcement Agencies: This bill's provisions will cause a minor workload increase for local law enforcement agencies that need to provide an annual report to the state police department the number of arrests made for violations of section 1 of this bill. The bill be implemented with existing staff and resources.

Explanation of Local Revenues: *Civil Actions:* If additional cases occur, revenue will be collected by certain local units. If the case is filed in a court of record, the county will receive \$32 and qualifying municipalities will receive a share of \$3. If the case is filed in a municipal court, the county receives \$20, and the municipality will receive \$37. The following linked document describes the fees and distribution of the revenue: [Court fees imposed in civil, probate, and small claims cases.](#)

Criminal Penalty: If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, more revenue will be collected by certain local units. If the case is filed in a court of record, the county general fund will receive \$47.40 and qualifying municipalities will receive a share of \$3.60. If the case is filed in a municipal court, the county receives \$30, and the municipality will receive \$46. The following linked document describes the fees and distribution of the revenue: [Court fees imposed in criminal, juvenile, and civil violation cases.](#)

State Agencies Affected: Office of the Attorney General, State Police Department, IHCDA.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, city and town courts; local law enforcement agencies; problem-solving courts; prosecuting attorneys; political subdivisions.

Information Sources: Indiana Supreme Court, Indiana Trial Court Fee Manual, Indiana Sheriffs' Association; Department of Corrections; Indiana Gateway for Government Units, 2023 Annual Financial Reports, <https://gateway.ifionline.org/public/download.aspx> Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2023 Annual Survey of Jails Data Series, <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/NACJD/series/7>.

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