

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

LS 7097
BILL NUMBER: SB 285

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 23, 2026
BILL AMENDED: Feb 23, 2026

SUBJECT: Housing Matters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Carrasco
FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Miller D

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 2nd House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) 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 IHCDA.

The bill defines "gravely disabled" for purposes of involuntary commitment.

This 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 by law. It requires a law enforcement officer who discovers a person unlawfully using land owned by the state or a political subdivision for unlawful camping, sleeping, or long term shelter to determine if there are reasonable grounds for an emergency detention of the person, and, if reasonable grounds exist, to proceed under the emergency detention procedure and not the criminal law.

It provides that, if there are not grounds for emergency detention and certain elements are met, 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. The bill also creates a defense to the crime if:

- (1) no beds are available in a shelter or treatment facility located within five miles; or
- (2) less than six months have passed since the person was released from a facility to which the person was involuntarily committed.

It 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 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 IHCDA.

The bill specifies that the bill does not prohibit a policy, program, or order of a political subdivision that encourages a diversion program or encourages or requires providing housing or shelter in lieu of a citation or arrest. It also makes technical corrections.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *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: *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: *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: *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: 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.ifonline.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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