

SENATE BILL No. 285

AM028502 has been incorporated into introduced printing.

Synopsis: Housing matters.

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2026

IN 285—LS 7097/DI 147



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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
15 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS

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1 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 36. Not later than July 1 of each**
 2 **year, the state police department shall provide to the Indiana**
 3 **housing and community development authority the information**
 4 **received under IC 36-1-31.5-4.**

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

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

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

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

18 **(b) If:**

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

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

27 **(1) having first received a warning under subsection (b); and**
 28 **(2) forty-eight (48) hours have elapsed since the warning was**
 29 **given under subsection (b);**
 30 **commits a Class C misdemeanor.**

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

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

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

41 **(b) In compliance with subsection (a), a political subdivision**
 42 **shall not prohibit or discourage a law enforcement officer or**



1 **prosecuting attorney who is employed by or otherwise under the**
2 **direction or control of the political subdivision from enforcing any**
3 **order or ordinance prohibiting public camping, sleeping, or other**
4 **obstruction of a sidewalk.**

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

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

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

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

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