
SENATE BILL No. 285

AM028509 has been incorporated into January 27, 2026 printing.

Synopsis: Housing matters.

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SB 285—LS 7097/DI 147



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Reprinted
January 27, 2026

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.

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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 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 578) shall
10 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
16 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 36. Not later than July 1 of each
17 year, the state police department shall provide to the Indiana**

SB 285—LS 7097/DI 147



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

3 SECTION 3. IC 12-26-1-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.205-2023,
4 SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
5 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) As used in this section, "gravely
6 disabled" means a condition in which an individual, as a result of
7 mental illness, is in danger of coming to harm because the
8 individual:

9 (1) is unable to provide for the individual's food, clothing,
10 shelter, or other essential human needs; or

11 (2) has a substantial impairment or an obvious deterioration
12 of judgment, reasoning, or behavior that results in the
13 individual being unable to function independently; or

14 (3) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate shelter, resulting in
15 the individual remaining outdoors in places not designed for
16 or ordinarily used for sleeping during weather conditions
17 that are likely to result in death or serious physical injury, if:

18 (A) the individual has refused transportation to a shelter
19 or mental health service provider; and

20 (B) a shelter or mental health service provider was
21 reasonably offered and available.

22 (b) An individual who is mentally ill and either dangerous or
23 gravely disabled may be involuntarily detained or committed under any
24 of the following statutes:

25 (1) IC 12-26-5 (emergency detention).

26 (2) IC 12-26-6 (temporary commitment).

27 (3) IC 12-26-7 (regular commitment).

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

34 SECTION 5. IC 36-1-31.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
35 AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
36 JULY 1, 2026]:

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

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

41 (b) If a person violates subsection (a), the law enforcement
42 officer who discovers the violation shall first determine if there are

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1 reasonable grounds for an emergency detention of the person. If
 2 there are reasonable grounds for an emergency detention, the law
 3 enforcement officer shall proceed under IC 12-26-5 and not this
 4 chapter.

5 (c) If:

- 6 (1) a person violates subsection (a);
- 7 (2) the person has not previously violated subsection (a); and
- 8 (3) subsection (b) does not apply;

9 the law enforcement officer who discovers the violation shall first
 10 give the person a warning and provide the person with information
 11 regarding locations authorized by law to provide services or
 12 shelter.

13 (d) A person who knowingly or intentionally violates
 14 subsection (a) commits street camping, a Class C misdemeanor, if:

- 15 (1) subsection (b) does not apply;
- 16 (2) the person has received a warning under subsection (c);
- 17 (3) at least forty-eight (48) hours have elapsed since the
 18 warning was issued; and
- 19 (4) the person is camping or sleeping on, or using for long
 20 term shelter, land owned by the state or a political
 21 subdivision that is located within a three hundred (300) foot
 22 radius of the location where the warning under subsection (c)
 23 was issued.

24 (e) A person charged with an offense under subsection (d) is
 25 eligible to participate in a diversion program, including:

- 26 (1) a prosecutorial diversion program under IC 33-39-1-8; or
- 27 (2) a forensic diversion program under IC 11-12-3.7.

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

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

35 (b) In compliance with subsection (a), a political subdivision
 36 shall not prohibit or discourage a law enforcement officer who is
 37 employed by or otherwise under the direction or control of the
 38 political subdivision from enforcing any order or ordinance
 39 prohibiting public camping, sleeping, or other obstruction of a
 40 sidewalk.

41 Sec. 4. Not later than March 1 of each year, each local law
 42 enforcement agency shall provide to the state police department

SB 285—LS 7097/DI 147



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1 the number of citations issued and arrests made for violations of
2 section 1 of this chapter by the law enforcement agency during the
3 preceding calendar year.
4 Sec. 5. (a) Subject to subsection (b), this chapter does not
5 prohibit a policy, program, or order of a political subdivision that:
6 (1) encourages a diversion program; or
7 (2) encourages or requires providing housing or shelter
8 services in lieu of a citation or arrest.
9 (b) A policy, program, or order described in subsection (a)
10 may not allow a person to remain in the area described in section
11 1(c)(3) of this chapter beyond the forty-eight (48) hour period of
12 time after receiving a warning under section 1(b) of this chapter.

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