

# HOUSE BILL No. 1198

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 10-10.5.

**Synopsis:** Indiana first responders. Designates an Indiana first responder to include the following employees and volunteers of state and local public safety agencies: (1) Law enforcement officers. (2) Firefighters, including volunteer firefighters. (3) Corrections officers. (4) Public safety telecommunicators. (5) Providers of emergency medical services. (6) Providers of emergency management services. (7) Any other individuals whose duties in serving a public safety agency include rapid emergency response. Provides that the designation of an individual as an Indiana first responder does not affect an individual's terms of employment or volunteer service with the public safety agency.

**Effective:** July 1, 2020.

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## Abbott, Frye R, Bacon

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January 13, 2020, read first time and referred to Committee on Veterans Affairs and Public Safety.

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Second Regular Session of the 121st General Assembly (2020)

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 2019 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

# HOUSE BILL No. 1198

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning public safety.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. IC 10-10.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS  
2 A **NEW** ARTICLE TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,  
3 2020]:  
4 **ARTICLE 10.5. STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY**  
5 **Chapter 1. Definitions**  
6 **Sec. 1. The definitions in this chapter apply throughout this**  
7 **article.**  
8 **Sec. 2. "Indiana first responder" means an individual who:**  
9 **(1) is employed by; or**  
10 **(2) serves as a volunteer for;**  
11 **a public safety agency and whose duties include responding rapidly**  
12 **to an emergency.**  
13 **Sec. 3. "Law enforcement officer" means any of the following:**  
14 **(1) A state police officer, enforcement officer of the alcohol**  
15 **and tobacco commission, or conservation officer.**  
16 **(2) A county, city, or town police officer.**  
17 **(3) A police officer appointed by a state educational institution**



1 under IC 21-39-4 or school corporation under IC 20-26-16.

2 (4) A gaming agent under IC 4-33-4.5 or a gaming control  
3 officer under IC 4-33-20.

4 Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "PSAP" refers to a public safety  
5 answering point:

6 (1) that operates on a twenty-four (24) hour basis; and

7 (2) whose primary function is to receive incoming requests for  
8 emergency assistance and relay those requests to an  
9 appropriate responding public safety agency.

10 Sec. 5. "Public safety agency" means a state or local:

11 (1) law enforcement agency;

12 (2) fire protection agency (including a volunteer fire  
13 department);

14 (3) PSAP;

15 (4) emergency management agency; or

16 (5) correctional institution.

17 Sec. 6. "Public safety telecommunicator" means an individual  
18 who answers 911 emergency calls on behalf of a public safety  
19 agency.

20 Chapter 2. Indiana First Responders

21 Sec. 1. The state of Indiana designates the following individuals  
22 to be Indiana first responders:

23 (1) A law enforcement officer.

24 (2) A firefighter, including a volunteer firefighter.

25 (3) A corrections officer.

26 (4) A public safety telecommunicator.

27 (5) An emergency medical technician, emergency medical  
28 responder, or paramedic.

29 (6) An individual performing emergency management  
30 services subject to the order or control of, or under a request  
31 of, the state or local government, including a volunteer health  
32 practitioner registered under IC 10-14-3.5.

33 (7) Any individual serving in an employee or volunteer  
34 capacity for a public safety agency, whose duties include rapid  
35 emergency response.

36 Chapter 3. Effect

37 Sec. 1. The designation of an individual as an Indiana first  
38 responder under this article does not affect the individual's terms  
39 of employment or volunteer status, including:

40 (1) assigned duties and responsibilities;

41 (2) contract terms;

42 (3) personnel classification;



- 1           **(4) merit or nonmerit employee status; or**
- 2           **(5) eligibility or lack of eligibility for compensation,**
- 3           **reimbursement, benefits, allowances, or worker's**
- 4           **compensation.**

