

# HOUSE BILL No. 1292

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 14-22-10.5.

**Synopsis:** Wildlife corridors. Establishes the wildlife corridor action plan (plan) for the purpose of establishing, maintaining, improving, and protecting wildlife corridors to preserve habitat connectivity, which promotes species diversity, lowers the risk of extinction, and promotes opportunities for outdoor recreation. Provides that the department of natural resources (department) shall incorporate the plan when designing infrastructure projects and shall work in conjunction with the department of transportation to develop the plan. Provides that the plan shall: (1) identify: (A) wildlife corridors in Indiana; (B) existing or planned barriers to movement along wildlife corridors in Indiana; and (C) areas where there is high risk of vehicles colliding with wildlife; (2) prioritize and recommend wildlife crossing projects intended to promote driver safety and wildlife connectivity along wildlife corridors; and (3) include descriptions of wildlife crossing infrastructure or mitigation techniques recommended to meet the purpose of the plan. Provides that the department shall submit the plan not later than November 1, 2022, to the legislative council and to legislators who were members of the house committees on natural resources and roads and transportation and the senate committees on homeland security and transportation and natural resources during the 2022 legislative session. Provides that the plan shall be updated and resubmitted to the legislative council every four years.

**Effective:** July 1, 2021.

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January 14, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

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First Regular Session of the 122nd General Assembly (2021)

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 2020 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## HOUSE BILL No. 1292

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning natural and cultural resources.

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

1 SECTION 1. IC 14-22-10.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2021]:

4 **Chapter 10.5. Wildlife Corridor Action Plan**

5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "barrier to movement" means a**  
6 **manmade structure or impediment that has the potential to affect**  
7 **the natural movement of fish or wildlife across a landscape.**

8 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "local unit of government" has**  
9 **the meaning under IC 14-22-31.5-1.**

10 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "plan" refers to the wildlife**  
11 **corridor action plan established under section 5 of this chapter.**

12 **Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "wildlife corridor" means:**

- 13 (1) an area connecting fragmented wildlife habitats;  
14 (2) a riparian corridor encompassing a river or stream and  
15 the land adjacent to the river or stream;  
16 (3) migration routes of native species; and  
17 (4) any habitat identified by the department as important for



the movement of wildlife.

Sec. 5. (a) The department shall establish the wildlife corridor action plan for the purpose of establishing, maintaining, improving, and protecting wildlife corridors to preserve habitat connectivity, which promotes species diversity, lowers the risk of extinction, and promotes opportunities for outdoor recreation.

(b) The department shall work in conjunction with the department of transportation to develop the plan.

Sec. 6. The plan shall:

(1) identify:

(A) wildlife corridors in Indiana;

(B) existing or planned barriers to movement along wildlife corridors in Indiana; and

(C) areas where there is high risk of vehicles colliding with wildlife;

(2) prioritize and recommend wildlife crossing projects intended to promote driver safety and wildlife connectivity along wildlife corridors; and

(3) include descriptions of wildlife crossing infrastructure or mitigation techniques recommended to meet the purpose of the plan.

Sec. 7. The department shall do the following:

(1) Work with interested parties to identify potential public and private partnerships that may provide funding for wildlife corridor projects in larger infrastructure plans.

(2) Provide guidance to local units of government on how to use the plan in local planning and infrastructure projects.

Sec. 8. (a) The department shall submit the plan not later than November 1, 2022, to the legislative council in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6 and to the legislators who were members of the house committees on natural resources and roads and transportation and the senate committees on homeland security and transportation and natural resources during the 2022 legislative session.

(b) The department shall submit an updated plan to the legislative council in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6 every four (4) years thereafter.

Sec. 9. The commission shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 and IC 14-10-2-4 to implement this chapter.

