



March 12, 2025

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# ENGROSSED

## HOUSE BILL No. 1637

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DIGEST OF HB 1637 (Updated March 11, 2025 10:24 am - DI 151)

**Citations Affected:** IC 10-19; IC 10-21; IC 13-17; IC 20-19; IC 22-12; IC 22-14; IC 22-15; IC 35-31.5; IC 36-7; IC 36-8; noncode.

**Synopsis:** School and public safety matters. Provides for the appointment of a fire chief, or the fire chief's designee, to a county school safety commission. Establishes the office of school safety within the department of homeland security (department) for the purpose of coordinating and administering school security and safety resources. Requires a school corporation or charter school to comply with certain safety related requests by the office of school safety. Changes the composition of the secured school safety board. Provides that the secured school fund may be used to provide financial assistance for projects of the office of school safety that are approved by the secured school safety board. Requires a school safety plan to include measures  
(Continued next page)

**Effective:** Upon passage; July 1, 2025.

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### Bartels, Davis, Commons, Criswell

(SENATE SPONSOR — BALDWIN)

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January 21, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Veterans Affairs and Public Safety.

February 6, 2025, amended, reported — Do Pass. Referred to Committee on Ways and Means pursuant to Rule 126.3.

February 13, 2025, reported — Do Pass.

February 17, 2025, read second time, ordered engrossed. Engrossed.

February 18, 2025, read third time, passed. Yeas 94, nays 0.

#### SENATE ACTION

March 3, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation.

March 11, 2025, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass; reassigned to Committee on Appropriations.

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EH 1637—LS 7685/DI 116



## Digest Continued

to annually inspect each protective door assembly on school buildings to ensure compliance with standards established by the fire prevention and building safety commission. Authorizes the department to issue enforcement orders in accordance with rules adopted by the board of firefighting personnel standards and education. Removes emergency medical services enforcement authority from the state fire marshal's management authority. Provides that the department, a fire department, or a volunteer fire department may open burn for fire training purposes if certain conditions are met. Makes various changes to provisions relating to the department's enforcement authority pertaining to the administrative adjudication of building fire and safety laws. Requires that a city, town, or county that requires a building permit for the construction of a Class 2 structure to allow the inspection to be conducted by third party inspectors. Amends the definition of "law enforcement officer" to include the state fire marshal and the executive director or fire investigator of the department. Provides that the fire prevention and building safety commission, with certain exceptions, may not adopt a final rule for more than three building codes during any 12 month period. Repeals the provision establishing the department of education's division of school building physical security and safety. Makes conforming amendments.

**EH 1637—LS 7685/DI 116**



March 12, 2025

First Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2025)

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 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL No. 1637

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 10-19-3.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2025]:

4 **Chapter 3.5. Office of School Safety**

5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "director" refers to the director**  
6 **of the office of school safety appointed under section 5 of this**  
7 **chapter.**

8 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "office" refers to the office of**  
9 **school safety established by section 4 of this chapter.**

10 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "physical security" refers to**  
11 **security measures that are designed to deny unauthorized access**  
12 **to a building or facility, including equipment and resources, and to**  
13 **protect individuals and property from damage or harm.**

14 **Sec. 4. The office of school safety is established as an office**  
15 **within the department of homeland security for the purpose of**  
16 **coordinating and administering school safety resources.**

17 **Sec. 5. The executive director shall appoint a director of the**

EH 1637—LS 7685/DI 116



1 office. The director shall do the following:

2 (1) Serve as the executive head of the office.

3 (2) Advise executive state agencies and political subdivisions  
4 regarding state best practices concerning matters relating to  
5 school safety.

6 (3) Oversee the duties of the office and coordinate school  
7 safety resources in consultation with other state agencies and  
8 provide leadership regarding school safety matters.

9 Sec. 6. (a) The office shall:

10 (1) establish and maintain guidelines for using professional  
11 architectural and engineering services to integrate physical  
12 security improvements and safety practices in the  
13 construction, renovation, repair, or alteration of a school  
14 facility;

15 (2) carry out the office's responsibilities with regards to the  
16 school safety specialist training and certification program  
17 established by IC 10-21-1-13;

18 (3) establish and maintain guidelines for establishing  
19 emergency response protocols in cooperation with other state  
20 agencies;

21 (4) carry out the office's responsibilities to safe school  
22 committees established under IC 10-21-1-14;

23 (5) coordinate the department's response and recovery  
24 assistance to a school in the event of a manmade or natural  
25 disaster;

26 (6) provide information and guidance to assist school  
27 corporations or schools to establish mutual aid disaster  
28 assistance agreements with other schools or school  
29 corporations;

30 (7) study and collect information to integrate lessons learned  
31 from previous school disasters throughout the country into  
32 the curriculum of the school safety specialist training and  
33 certification program established by IC 10-21-1-13 and  
34 guidelines established by the division under this subsection;

35 (8) establish and maintain guidelines, in consultation with the  
36 department of education and institute for criminal justice, for  
37 developing and maintaining school safety plans as described  
38 in IC 10-21-1-10 and IC 10-21-1-11; and

39 (9) assist the secured school safety board established by  
40 IC 10-21-1-3 in conducting the review and submitting the  
41 report as described in IC 10-21-1-8.

42 (b) The office may:



(1) request a meeting with a school corporation or charter school to review a school safety plan as described in IC 10-21-1-10;

(2) request to provide an onsite safety review for a school corporation or charter school;

(3) request to provide guidance or assistance relating to school safety matters to a school corporation or charter school;

(4) provide assistance or guidance relating to school safety matters upon request by a nonpublic school that has voluntarily become accredited under IC 20-31-4.1 or is accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency that is recognized by the state board; and

(5) provide assistance or guidance relating to school safety matters upon request by a county school safety commission established under IC 10-21-1-12.

The applicable school corporation or charter school must comply with any requests made by the office under this subsection.

(c) The office shall maintain a secure website to provide school officials and public safety officials access to information that is considered confidential under IC 5-14-3-4(b)(1), IC 5-14-3-4(b)(18), and IC 5-14-3-4(b)(19) or other sensitive information that may assist school officials and public safety officials in improving school safety or responding to a manmade or natural disaster.

(d) The office shall maintain a public website that contains:

(1) the guidelines established by the office under subsection

(a);

(2) best practices pertaining to school safety; and

(3) any other information the office determines may be necessary to carry out the office's duties or responsibilities under this section.

SECTION 2. IC 10-19-7-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.56-2023, SECTION 78, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 3. (a) The state fire marshal appointed under IC 22-14-2-2 shall manage the department's administration of the following:

~~(1) IC 16-31.~~

~~(2) (1) IC 22-11.~~

~~(3) (2) IC 22-12.~~

~~(4) (3) IC 22-13.~~

~~(5) (4) IC 22-14.~~

~~(6) (5) IC 22-15.~~

(b) In carrying out the duties under subsection (a), the state fire



marshal shall do the following:

(1) Provide department staff to support the fire prevention and building safety commission established by IC 22-12-2-1.

(2) Partner with state agencies, including the Indiana department of health and state educational institutions, to develop public safety education and outreach programs.

(c) The state fire marshal may not exercise any powers or perform any duties specifically assigned to either of the following:

(1) The fire prevention and building safety commission.

(2) The state building commissioner.

(d) The state fire marshal may delegate the state fire marshal's authority to the appropriate department staff.

SECTION 3. IC 10-21-1-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.201-2023, SECTION 128, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 2. (a) The Indiana secured school fund is established to provide:

(1) matching grants to school corporations, charter schools, and accredited nonpublic schools, where the matching grants may be used to:

(A) employ a school resource officer, employ a law enforcement officer, or enter into a contract or a memorandum of understanding with a:

(i) local law enforcement agency;

(ii) private entity; or

(iii) nonprofit corporation;

to employ a school resource officer or a law enforcement officer;

(B) conduct:

(i) a site vulnerability assessment of the buildings within a school corporation or the buildings that are operated by a charter school or accredited nonpublic school; or

(ii) critical incident digital mapping of the buildings within a school corporation or the buildings that are operated by a charter school or accredited nonpublic school;

(C) purchase equipment, hardware, materials, and technology to:

(i) restrict access to school property and classrooms;

(ii) assist with visitor management on school property;

(iii) expedite notification of first responders;

(iv) expedite access to school property for first responders;

(v) provide school staff with information about the open or closed status of interior and exterior doors;



- 1 (vi) detect fire, chemical, visual, or audible threats;
- 2 (vii) enhance emergency communications inside the
- 3 building; or
- 4 (viii) assist with emergency medical response on school
- 5 property;
- 6 (D) implement a student and parent support services plan as
- 7 described in IC 20-34-9;
- 8 (E) purchase or provide training for a canine trained to detect
- 9 drugs and illegal substances, explosives, or firearms, or to
- 10 otherwise provide protection for students and school
- 11 employees and the canine shall:
- 12 (i) be primarily assigned to a school corporation, charter
- 13 school, or accredited nonpublic school;
- 14 (ii) be primarily assigned to a school resource officer or law
- 15 enforcement officer described in clause (A) who has
- 16 received appropriate training for handling a canine trained
- 17 to detect drugs and illegal substances, explosives, or
- 18 firearms, or to otherwise provide protection for students and
- 19 school employees, including training regarding handling a
- 20 canine in a school setting; and
- 21 (iii) receive continuous training as appropriate;
- 22 (F) provide funding for school employees to receive training,
- 23 including expenses for per diem, travel, and lodging, related
- 24 to:
- 25 (i) site vulnerability assessments;
- 26 (ii) mental health or behavioral health threat assessments;
- 27 (iii) multi-disciplinary threat assessment teams; or
- 28 (iv) emergency preparedness or response activities;
- 29 (G) provide funding for school resource officers or law
- 30 enforcement officers described in clause (A) to receive
- 31 training, including expenses for per diem, travel, and lodging,
- 32 related to handling a canine trained to detect drugs and illegal
- 33 substances, explosives, or firearms, or to otherwise provide
- 34 protection for students and school employees;
- 35 (H) purchase student safety management technology;
- 36 (I) design and construct additions or renovations on school
- 37 property if the primary purpose of the construction project is
- 38 to enhance the physical security of the school building; or
- 39 (J) implement a bullying prevention program; ~~and~~
- 40 (2) one (1) time grants to enable school corporations, charter
- 41 schools, and accredited nonpublic schools with the sheriff for the
- 42 county in which the school corporation, charter school, or



1 accredited nonpublic school is located, to provide the initial set up  
2 costs for an active event warning system; **and**

3 **(3) financial assistance for projects of the office of school**  
4 **safety that are approved by the board.**

5 (b) A school corporation or charter school may use money received  
6 under a matching grant for a purpose listed in subsection (a) to provide  
7 a response to a threat in a manner that the school corporation or charter  
8 school sees fit, including firearms training or other self-defense  
9 training.

10 (c) The fund shall be administered by the department of homeland  
11 security.

12 (d) The fund consists of:

13 (1) appropriations from the general assembly;

14 (2) federal grants;

15 (3) amounts deposited from any other public or private source;  
16 and

17 (4) amounts deposited under IC 33-37-9-4.

18 (e) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from  
19 money in the fund.

20 (f) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not  
21 currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same  
22 manner as other public money may be invested. Interest that accrues  
23 from these investments shall be deposited in the fund.

24 (g) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert  
25 to the state general fund.

26 SECTION 4. IC 10-21-1-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.43-2021,  
27 SECTION 34, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
28 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 3. (a) The secured school safety board is  
29 established to approve or disapprove applications for matching grants  
30 to fund programs described in section 2(a)(1) of this chapter and grants  
31 described in section 2(a)(2) of this chapter to fund the initial set up  
32 costs for an active event warning system.

33 (b) The board consists of ~~seven (7)~~ **eleven (11)** members appointed  
34 as follows:

35 (1) The executive director of the department of homeland security  
36 or the executive director's designee. The executive director of the  
37 department of homeland security or the executive director's  
38 designee serves as the chairperson of the board.

39 (2) The attorney general or the attorney general's designee.

40 (3) The superintendent of the state police department or the  
41 superintendent's designee.

42 (4) A local law enforcement officer appointed by the governor.





(5) The secretary of education or the secretary's designee.

(6) The director of the criminal justice institute or the director's designee.

(7) An employee of a local school corporation ~~or a charter school~~ appointed by the governor.

**(8) An employee of a charter school appointed by the governor.**

**(9) A school resource officer appointed by the governor.**

**(10) An emergency medical responder appointed by the governor.**

**(11) A firefighter appointed by the governor.**

(c) The board shall establish criteria to be used in evaluating applications for grants from the fund. These criteria must:

(1) be consistent with the fund's goals; and

(2) provide for an equitable distribution of grants to school corporations, charter schools, and accredited nonpublic schools located throughout Indiana.

SECTION 5. IC 10-21-1-10, AS AMENDED BY P.L.135-2024, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 10. (a) A school corporation shall develop a school safety plan in accordance with subsection (c) for review as described in section 11 of this chapter.

(b) Each charter school shall develop a school safety plan in accordance with subsection (c) for review as described in section 11 of this chapter. A charter school in operation on July 1, 2023, shall comply with this subsection on or before July 1, 2024.

(c) The school safety plan:

(1) must be developed by a school safety specialist and the school's safe school committee, including a school resource officer if one (1) is employed by the school corporation or charter school, in consultation with the:

(A) law enforcement agency; and

(B) fire department;

that have jurisdiction over the particular school building;

(2) must:

(A) protect against outside and internal threats to the physical safety of students, faculty, staff, and the public, including unsafe conditions, crime prevention, school violence, bullying and cyberbullying, criminal organization activity, child abuse and child sexual abuse, mental health and behavioral health, suicide awareness and prevention, violence prevention and training, situational awareness, and other issues that prevent



- 1 the maintenance of a safe school;
- 2 (B) prevent unauthorized access to school property and
- 3 interior areas or rooms, including the management of
- 4 authorized visitors on school property, before, during, and
- 5 after regular school hours;
- 6 (C) secure schools against natural and manmade disasters,
- 7 including all emergency preparedness drill requirements set
- 8 forth in IC 20-34-3-20;
- 9 (D) establish an armed intruder drill protocol that:
- 10 (i) provides accommodations for students who have mobility
- 11 restrictions, sensory needs, or auditory or visual limitations;
- 12 (ii) emphasizes the practical nature of the drill;
- 13 (iii) provides access to mental health services on school
- 14 grounds following the conclusion of a drill;
- 15 (iv) provides advance notice of a drill to parents or legal
- 16 guardians of students who attend the school; and
- 17 (v) provides alternative exercises for students who are
- 18 unable to participate in a drill;
- 19 (E) include a site vulnerability assessment for each school
- 20 building;
- 21 (F) not later than July 1, 2025, include the establishment of a
- 22 multi-disciplinary threat assessment team;
- 23 (G) include measures to expedite notification of first
- 24 responders and access to school property for first responders;
- 25 **and**
- 26 (H) include any additional requirements required by the
- 27 Indiana state board of education; **and**
- 28 **(I) include measures to annually inspect each protective**
- 29 **door assembly on school buildings to ensure compliance**
- 30 **with standards established by the fire prevention and**
- 31 **building safety commission;**
- 32 (3) must be provided to a member of the board if a member
- 33 requests the school safety plan;
- 34 (4) must be available for inspection by the ~~department of~~
- 35 ~~education's division of school building physical security and~~
- 36 ~~safety (as established by IC 20-19-3-14); department's office of~~
- 37 **school safety (as established by IC 10-19-3.5-4);**
- 38 (5) must be provided to the law enforcement agency and the fire
- 39 department that have jurisdiction over the school corporation or
- 40 charter school;
- 41 (6) must include an attestation that:
- 42 (A) a copy of the floor plans for each building located on the



1 school's property were provided to the law enforcement agency  
 2 and the fire department that have jurisdiction over the school  
 3 corporation or charter school that clearly indicates each  
 4 entrance and exit, the interior rooms and hallways, and the  
 5 location of any hazardous materials located in the building; or  
 6 (B) the school corporation or charter school has conducted  
 7 critical incidence digital mapping for each school building  
 8 within the school corporation or the buildings that are operated  
 9 by a charter school, including providing the critical incidence  
 10 digital mapping information to:

- 11 (i) the law enforcement agency and fire department that
- 12 have jurisdiction over the mapped school buildings; and
- 13 (ii) the statewide 911 system described in IC 36-8-16.7-22
- 14 through the public safety answer point, or "PSAP",
- 15 described in IC 36-8-16.7-20 that has jurisdiction over the
- 16 mapped school buildings; and

17 (7) must be filed with the county school safety commission under  
 18 section 12 of this chapter having jurisdiction over the school  
 19 corporation or charter school.

20 (d) For purposes of IC 5-14-3, the entities specified in subsection (c)  
 21 that receive information under this section shall keep the information  
 22 compiled and retained under this section confidential and shall  
 23 withhold the information from public disclosure.

24 SECTION 6. IC 10-21-1-12, AS AMENDED BY P.L.148-2024,  
 25 SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 26 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 12. (a) Not later than December 31, 2023, a  
 27 county shall establish a county school safety commission. Unless  
 28 otherwise specified in subsection (b)(1) through ~~(b)(11)~~; **(b)(12)**, the  
 29 members described in subsection (b) are appointed by the school  
 30 corporation having the largest ADM (as defined in IC 20-18-2-2), as  
 31 determined in the fall count of ADM in the school year ending in the  
 32 current calendar year.

33 (b) The members of the commission are as follows:

- 34 (1) A school safety specialist for each school corporation located
- 35 in whole or in part in the county.
- 36 (2) The judge of the court having juvenile jurisdiction in the
- 37 county or the judge's designee.
- 38 (3) The sheriff of the county or the sheriff's designee.
- 39 (4) The chief officer of every other law enforcement agency in the
- 40 county, or the chief officer's designee.
- 41 (5) A representative of the juvenile probation system, appointed
- 42 by the judge described in subdivision (2).



- 1 (6) Representatives of community agencies that work with
- 2 children within the county.
- 3 (7) A representative of the Indiana state police district that serves
- 4 the county, appointed by the Indiana state police.
- 5 (8) A prosecuting attorney or deputy prosecuting attorney who
- 6 specializes in the prosecution of juveniles, appointed by the
- 7 prosecuting attorney.
- 8 (9) A school safety specialist of a charter school representing the
- 9 interests and viewpoints of charter schools within the
- 10 commission's jurisdiction if at least one (1) charter school within
- 11 the commission's jurisdiction requests to participate.
- 12 (10) A school safety specialist of an accredited nonpublic school
- 13 representing the interests and viewpoints of accredited nonpublic
- 14 schools within the commission's jurisdiction if at least one (1)
- 15 accredited nonpublic school requests to participate.
- 16 **(11) The fire chief of a fire department in the county, or the**
- 17 **fire chief's designee.**
- 18 ~~(11)~~ **(12)** Other appropriate individuals selected by the
- 19 commission.
- 20 (c) Once a commission is established, the school safety specialist of
- 21 the school corporation having the largest ADM (as defined in
- 22 IC 20-18-2-2), as determined in the fall count of ADM in the school
- 23 year ending in the current calendar year, in the county shall convene
- 24 the initial meeting of the commission.
- 25 (d) The members shall annually elect a chairperson.
- 26 (e) A commission shall perform the following duties:
- 27 (1) Periodically perform a cumulative analysis of school safety
- 28 needs within the county.
- 29 (2) Coordinate and make recommendations for the following:
- 30 (A) Prevention of juvenile offenses and improving the
- 31 reporting of juvenile offenses within the schools.
- 32 (B) Proposals for identifying and assessing children who are
- 33 at high risk of experiencing a mental health or behavioral
- 34 health crisis or becoming juvenile offenders.
- 35 (C) Methods to meet the educational needs of children who
- 36 have been detained as juvenile offenders.
- 37 (D) Methods to improve communications among agencies that
- 38 work with children.
- 39 (E) Methods to improve school security and emergency
- 40 preparedness.
- 41 (F) Additional equipment or personnel that are necessary to
- 42 carry out school safety plans.



- 1 (G) Pooling resources, combining purchases, using shared
- 2 administrative services, or collaborating among participating
- 3 school corporations, school corporation career and technical
- 4 education schools described in IC 20-37-1-1, and charter
- 5 schools to improve the maintenance of safe schools.
- 6 (H) Implementing best practices and procedures to use critical
- 7 incidence digital mapping in the event of an emergency within
- 8 the county.
- 9 (I) Any other topic the commission considers necessary to
- 10 improve school safety within the commission's jurisdiction.
- 11 (3) Provide assistance to school safety specialists and school
- 12 resource officers within the commission's jurisdiction in
- 13 developing and:
- 14 (A) implementing school safety plans; and
- 15 (B) requesting grants from the fund.
- 16 (4) Assist accredited nonpublic schools within the commission's
- 17 jurisdiction that voluntarily submit a school safety plan or a local
- 18 school safety and emergency plan (described in IC 20-34-3-23) to
- 19 the commission seeking assistance in carrying out the school
- 20 safety plan.
- 21 (f) The affirmative votes of a majority of the voting members of the
- 22 commission are required for the commission to take action on a
- 23 measure.
- 24 (g) A commission shall receive the school safety plans for the
- 25 school corporations and charter schools located in the county.
- 26 (h) A commission may receive from an accredited nonpublic school
- 27 within the commission's jurisdiction a school safety plan or a local
- 28 school safety and emergency plan described in IC 20-34-3-23.
- 29 (i) The commission shall keep the school safety plans compiled and
- 30 retained under this section confidential and shall withhold the
- 31 information from public disclosure.
- 32 (j) The commission may share the school safety plans under
- 33 subsections (g) and (h) with law enforcement and first responder
- 34 agencies that have jurisdiction over the school corporation, charter
- 35 school, or accredited nonpublic school. For the purposes of IC 5-14-3,
- 36 the entities receiving a school safety plan under this subsection shall
- 37 keep information compiled and retained under subsections (g) and (h)
- 38 confidential and shall withhold the information from public disclosure.
- 39 (k) A commission shall annually submit to the board on a date
- 40 established by the board:
- 41 (1) meeting minutes;
- 42 (2) any meeting agenda materials directly related to taking action



on a measure under this section; and

(3) a brief annual summary of its activities and accomplishments.

SECTION 7. IC 10-21-1-13, AS ADDED BY P.L.150-2023, SECTION 14, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 13. (a) The school safety specialist training and certification program is established. **The program shall be administered by the office of school safety (as established by IC 10-19-3.5-4).**

(b) The school safety specialist training and certification program shall provide:

(1) annual training sessions, which may be conducted through distance learning or at regional centers; and

(2) information concerning best practices and available resources; for school safety specialists and county school safety commissions.

(c) ~~The department of education;~~ **office of school safety (as established by IC 10-19-3.5-4)** in consultation with the board ~~and the department of education,~~ shall do the following:

(1) Assemble an advisory group of school safety specialists from around the state to make recommendations concerning the curriculum and standards for school safety specialist training.

(2) Develop an appropriate curriculum and the standards for the school safety specialist training and certification program. ~~The department of education~~ **office of school safety** may consult with national school safety experts in developing the curriculum and standards. The curriculum developed under this subdivision must include training in:

(A) identifying, preventing, and intervening in bullying and cyberbullying;

(B) identifying, preventing, and intervening in criminal organization activity;

(C) identifying, preventing, and intervening in actions by a person who is present on school property with the intent to harm another person;

(D) developing and implementing a school safety plan in accordance with this chapter;

(E) using a county school safety commission to improve school safety and emergency preparedness; and

(F) using safe school committees to improve safety and emergency preparedness for each school building.

(3) Administer the school safety specialist training and certification program, including the following duties:

(A) Establish a school safety specialist certificate for



1 candidates eligible under section 9 of this chapter who have  
2 successfully completed the training program.

3 (B) Review the qualifications of each candidate, determine  
4 their eligibility for certification, and present a certificate to  
5 each school safety specialist eligible for certification.

6 SECTION 8. IC 10-21-1-14, AS AMENDED BY P.L.135-2024,  
7 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
8 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 14. (a) Each school operated by a school  
9 corporation shall establish a safe school committee. The committee  
10 may be a subcommittee of the committee that develops the strategic  
11 and continuous school improvement and achievement plan under  
12 IC 20-31-5. Each committee may include at least one (1) member who  
13 is a member of the support staff of the school or school corporation  
14 career and technical education school.

15 (b) Each school operated by a charter school shall establish a safe  
16 school committee. A charter school in operation on July 1, 2023, shall  
17 comply with this subsection not later than July 1, 2024.

18 (c) The safe school committee shall actively participate in and assist  
19 with the development of the school safety plan.

20 (d) The ~~department of education~~, **office of school safety (as**  
21 **established by IC 10-19-3.5-4)**, the school corporation's or charter  
22 school's school safety specialist or specialists, and a school resource  
23 officer, if one (1) is employed by the school corporation or charter  
24 school, shall provide materials and guidelines to assist a safe school  
25 committee in developing a policy for a particular school that addresses  
26 the following issues:

27 (1) Implementation of the school safety plan.

28 (2) Addressing outside and internal threats to the physical safety  
29 of students, faculty, staff, and the public, including unsafe  
30 conditions, crime prevention, school violence, bullying and  
31 cyberbullying, criminal organization activity, child abuse and  
32 child sexual abuse, mental health and behavioral health, suicide  
33 awareness and prevention, violence prevention and training,  
34 situational awareness, and other issues that prevent the  
35 maintenance of a safe school.

36 (3) Addressing the professional development needs for faculty  
37 and staff to implement methods that decrease problems identified  
38 under subdivision (2).

39 (4) Identifying and implementing methods to encourage:

40 (A) involvement by the community, families, and students;

41 (B) development of relationships between students and school  
42 faculty and staff; and



- 1 (C) use of problem solving teams.
- 2 (5) Consideration of the effect of armed intruder drills on the
- 3 safety and mental health of students, faculty, and staff.
- 4 (e) The guidelines developed under subsection (d) must include age
- 5 appropriate, trauma informed, evidence based information (as defined
- 6 in 34 U.S.C. 10554(4)) that assists school corporations or charter
- 7 schools and safe school committees in:
- 8 (1) developing and implementing bullying and cyberbullying
- 9 prevention programs;
- 10 (2) establishing investigation and reporting procedures related to
- 11 bullying and cyberbullying; and
- 12 (3) adopting discipline rules that comply with IC 20-33-8-13.5.
- 13 (f) In addition to developing guidelines under subsection (d), the
- 14 **office of school safety, in consultation with the** department of
- 15 education, shall establish categories of types of bullying incidents to
- 16 allow school corporations to use the categories in making reports under
- 17 IC 20-20-8-8 and IC 20-34-6-1.
- 18 (g) The materials and guidelines provided under subsection (d) must
- 19 include the model educational materials and model response policies
- 20 and reporting procedures on child abuse and child sexual abuse
- 21 developed or identified under IC 20-19-3-11.
- 22 SECTION 9. IC 10-21-1-15, AS ADDED BY P.L.150-2023,
- 23 SECTION 16, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 24 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 15. An accredited nonpublic school may do one
- 25 (1) or more of the following:
- 26 (1) Designate one (1) or more individuals to obtain school safety
- 27 specialist certification under section 13 of this chapter to perform
- 28 school safety specialist duties under this chapter.
- 29 (2) Establish a school safety plan in accordance with section 10
- 30 of this chapter.
- 31 (3) Establish a safe school committee.
- 32 (4) Submit a school safety plan to the county school safety
- 33 commission having jurisdiction over the accredited nonpublic
- 34 school.
- 35 (5) Request to join the county school safety commission having
- 36 jurisdiction over the accredited nonpublic school or be
- 37 represented by another accredited nonpublic school's school
- 38 safety specialist on the same commission.
- 39 (6) Request general guidance relating to school safety matters
- 40 from one (1) or more of the following:
- 41 (A) The board.
- 42 (B) The department of education.





(C) ~~The department of homeland security.~~ **office of school safety (as established by IC 10-19-3.5-4).**

(D) The county school safety commission having jurisdiction over the accredited nonpublic school.

SECTION 10. IC 10-21-1-16, AS ADDED BY P.L.218-2023, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 16. (a) A school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school may apply to the ~~department~~ **board** for a grant from the fund to:

(1) increase school safety by:

(A) helping teachers, school staff, and school employees acquire specialized firearms instruction as described in IC 10-21-3; and

(B) defraying tuition related expenses for teachers, school staff, and school employees who wish to enroll in the course of firearms instruction described in IC 10-21-3; or

(2) provide funding in the event of a school shooting to cover the costs of counseling for students, teachers, school staff, and school employees.

(b) A school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school:

(1) is not subject to the restriction in section 4 of this chapter that a school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school may receive only one (1) matching grant each year; and

(2) may receive an additional matching grant under section 4 of this chapter for the purposes described in subsection (a).

SECTION 11. IC 10-21-1.5-4, AS ADDED BY P.L.27-2016, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 4. ~~Not later than July 1, 2017,~~ The ~~department~~ **office of school safety (as established by IC 10-19-3.5-4)** shall establish and maintain guidelines for emergency response systems. The ~~department office of school safety~~ shall establish emergency response system guidelines with input from the ~~division of school building physical security and safety (established by IC 20-19-3-14).~~ **department of education.**

SECTION 12. IC 13-17-9-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 1. (a) Subject to section 3 of this chapter, a person may open burn the following for maintenance purposes:

(1) Vegetation from:

(A) a farm;

(B) an orchard;



- 1 (C) a nursery;
- 2 (D) a tree farm;
- 3 (E) a cemetery; or
- 4 (F) a drainage ditch.
- 5 (2) Vegetation from agricultural land if the open burn occurs in
- 6 an unincorporated area.
- 7 (3) Wood products derived from pruning or clearing a roadside by
- 8 a county highway department.
- 9 (4) Wood products derived from the initial clearing of a public
- 10 utility right-of-way if the open burn occurs in an unincorporated
- 11 area.
- 12 (5) Undesirable:
- 13 (A) wood structures on real property; or
- 14 (B) wood remnants of the demolition of a predominantly
- 15 wooden structure originally located on real property;
- 16 located in an unincorporated area.
- 17 **(b) Subject to section 3 of this chapter, the department of**
- 18 **homeland security, a municipal fire department, or a volunteer fire**
- 19 **department may open burn the following for fire training**
- 20 **purposes:**
- 21 **(1) Propane, straw, or clean wood pallets.**
- 22 **(2) Wood framing, wood flooring, drywall, and home**
- 23 **furnishings in the department of homeland security's mobile**
- 24 **burn demonstration unit (BDU).**
- 25 ~~(b)~~ (c) A person who is allowed to open burn under subsection (a)
- 26 or (b) is not required to obtain:
- 27 (1) a permit; or
- 28 (2) any other authorization;
- 29 from the department, a unit of local government, or a volunteer fire
- 30 department before conducting the open burning.
- 31 SECTION 13. IC 13-17-9-3 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
- 32 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 3. All open burning that
- 33 is allowed under this chapter must comply with the following
- 34 conditions:
- 35 (1) A person who open burns any material shall extinguish the fire
- 36 if the fire creates a nuisance or fire hazard.
- 37 (2) Burning may not be conducted during unfavorable
- 38 meteorological conditions such as high winds, temperature
- 39 inversions, or air stagnation, **except open burning conducted in**
- 40 **accordance with section 1(b) of this chapter.**
- 41 (3) All fires must be attended at all times during burning until
- 42 completely extinguished.



(4) All asbestos containing materials must be removed before the burning of a structure.

(5) Asbestos containing materials may not be burned.

**(6) Open burning for the purpose of fire training under section 1(b) of this chapter:**

**(A) must be conducted at the department of homeland security's mobile burn demonstration unit (BDU) or at fire training facilities located on property owned or controlled by the department of homeland security, a local unit of government, a municipal fire department, or a volunteer fire department; and**

**(B) may not be conducted for disposal purposes.**

~~(6)~~ (7) Except as provided under section 1 of this chapter, all burning must comply with state and federal laws. **However, open burning conducted in accordance with section 1(b) of this chapter is exempt from any rule or department imposed requirements that are more stringent than the requirements of this section.**

SECTION 14. IC 20-19-3-14 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]. Sec. 14: (a) As used in this section, "division" refers to the division of school building physical security and safety established by subsection (c):

(b) As used in this section, "physical security" refers to security measures that are designed to deny unauthorized access to a building or facility; including equipment and resources; and to protect individuals and property from damage or harm.

(c) The division of school building physical security and safety is established within the department.

(d) The division shall:

(1) establish and maintain guidelines for using professional architectural and engineering services to integrate physical security improvements and safety practices in the construction, renovation, repair, or alteration of a school facility;

(2) carry out the department's responsibilities with regards to the school safety specialist training and certification program established in IC 10-21-1-13;

(3) establish and maintain guidelines for establishing emergency response protocols in cooperation with other state agencies;

(4) carry out the department's responsibilities to safe school committees under IC 10-21-1-14;

(5) coordinate the department's response and recovery assistance to a school in the event of a manmade or natural disaster;



(6) provide information and guidance to assist school corporations or schools to establish mutual aid disaster assistance agreements with other schools or school corporations;

(7) study and collect information to integrate lessons learned from previous school disasters throughout the country into the curriculum of the school safety specialist training and certification program established in IC 10-21-1-13 and guidelines established by the division under this subsection;

(8) establish and maintain guidelines, in consultation with the department of homeland security and institute for criminal justice, for developing and maintaining school safety plans as described in IC 10-21-1-10 and IC 10-21-1-11; and

(9) assist the secured school safety board established by IC 10-21-1-3 in conducting the review and submitting the report as described in IC 10-21-1-8.

(e) The division may:

(1) request a meeting with a school corporation or charter school to review a school safety plan as described in IC 10-21-1-10;

(2) request to provide an onsite safety review for a school corporation or charter school;

(3) request to provide guidance or assistance relating to school safety matters to a school corporation or charter school;

(4) provide assistance or guidance relating to school safety matters upon request by a nonpublic school that has voluntarily become accredited under IC 20-31-4.1 or is accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency that is recognized by the state board; and

(5) provide assistance or guidance relating to school safety matters upon request by a county school safety commission under IC 10-21-1-12.

(f) The division shall maintain a secure Internet web site to provide school officials and public safety officials access to information that is considered classified under IC 5-14-3-4(b)(1); IC 5-14-3-4(b)(18); and IC 5-14-3-4(b)(19) or other sensitive information that may assist school officials and public safety officials in improving school safety or responding to a manmade or natural disaster.

(g) The division shall maintain a public website that contains:

(1) the guidelines established by the division under subsection (d);

(2) best practices pertaining to school safety; and

(3) any other information the division determines may be necessary to carry out the division's duties or responsibilities



under this section:

SECTION 15. IC 22-12-2.5-3, AS ADDED BY P.L.155-2023, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 3. The commission shall decide which building codes shall be reviewed each calendar year, focusing on the oldest building codes for review. **Except as permitted under section 4(b) of this chapter,** the commission may not ~~review~~ **adopt a final rule under IC 4-22-2-29** for more than three (3) building codes during any ~~calendar year:~~ **twelve (12) month period.**

SECTION 16. IC 22-12-7-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.249-2019, SECTION 21, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 1. This chapter applies to the commission, the education board, and every officer, employee, and agent of an office or division within the department whenever the person has authority to administer or enforce a law **under IC 22-11 through IC 22-15, IC 35-47.5, or IC 36-8-10.5.**

SECTION 17. IC 22-12-7-8 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 8. (a) If a licensee is placed on probation under section 7 of this chapter, the person issuing the order may require that licensee to:

- (1) report regularly to the department or another person upon the matters that are the basis of probation;
- (2) limit use of property or other conduct to those areas prescribed by the person issuing the order; ~~or~~
- (3) ~~if the disciplined licensee is an inspector or an inspection agency,~~ continue or renew professional education under the department or another person approved by the person issuing the order until the person issuing the order finds that a satisfactory degree of skill has been attained in those areas that are the basis of the probation; **or**
- (4) perform any acts, including community restitution or service without compensation, or refrain from performing any acts that the department considers appropriate to the public interest or to the rehabilitation or treatment of the practitioner.**

(b) The person issuing the order may cancel a probation order if it finds that the deficiency that required disciplinary action has been remedied by the licensee.

SECTION 18. IC 22-12-7-12 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 12. (a) This section applies to an order issued by an officer, employee, or agent of an office or division within the department.



(b) The office or division issuing an order shall give a person who:

(1) is aggrieved by the order; and

(2) requests review of the order in verbal or written form;

an opportunity to informally discuss the order with the office or division. Review under this subsection does not suspend the running of the time period in which a person must petition under IC 4-21.5-3-7 to appeal the order.

(c) The office or division issuing the order may, on its own initiative or at the request of any person, modify its order or reverse the order.

(d) An order issued by an office or a division may be appealed to the commission under IC 4-21.5-3-7. A decision to deny a request to modify or reverse an order under subsection (c) is not appealable. **However, orders issued under IC 22-14-2-7, IC 22-14-2-7.5, or IC 36-8-10.5 are appealed to the education board.**

(e) If an order is appealed, the ~~commission~~ **agency that is responsible for reviewing the order under subsection (d)** or its designee shall conduct all administrative proceedings under IC 4-21.5. In its proceedings, the ~~commission~~ **agency conducting the proceeding** may modify the order to impose any requirement authorized under this article or reverse the order.

SECTION 19. IC 22-14-2-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.187-2021, SECTION 82, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 4. (a) The department may:

(1) enter and inspect any property, at a reasonable hour;

(2) issue and enforce administrative orders under IC 22-12-7 and apply for judicial orders under IC 22-12-7-13;

(3) direct a fire department to assist the department;

(4) cooperate with law enforcement officers; and

(5) provide hazardous materials and counterterrorism:

(A) training;

(B) support; and

(C) response assistance.

~~(b) To carry out the state fire marshal's responsibility to conduct an investigation into the causes and circumstances surrounding a fire or an explosion, the state fire marshal or a department fire investigator authorized by the state fire marshal may:~~

~~(1) exercise the powers of a law enforcement officer to prevent fires and conduct arson investigations;~~

~~(2) direct a fire department to assist the state fire marshal or department fire investigator; and~~

~~(3) cooperate with law enforcement officers.~~

**(b) Notwithstanding any other law, changes made to this section**



1 **during the 2025 regular session of the general assembly do not**  
 2 **affect ongoing investigations initiated by the state fire marshal**  
 3 **before July 1, 2025.**

4 SECTION 20. IC 22-14-2-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.93-2024,  
 5 SECTION 165, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 6 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 7. (a) This section does not limit the  
 7 powers, rights, duties, and other responsibilities of municipal or county  
 8 governments or impose requirements affecting pension laws or any  
 9 other laws.

10 (b) This section does not require a member of a fire department to  
 11 be certified. **However, under the authority provided in subsection**  
 12 **(c), the education board may, by rule, establish a program**  
 13 **requiring certification of fire service personnel or nonfire service**  
 14 **personnel.**

15 (c) The education board may **establish a program to be**  
 16 **administered by the department to:**

- 17 (1) certify firefighting training and education programs that meet
- 18 the standards set by the education board;
- 19 (2) certify fire department instructors who meet the qualifications
- 20 set by the education board;
- 21 (3) direct research in the field of firefighting and fire prevention
- 22 and accept gifts and grants to direct this research;
- 23 (4) recommend curricula for advanced training courses and
- 24 seminars in fire science or fire engineering training to public and
- 25 private postsecondary educational institutions;
- 26 (5) certify fire service personnel and nonfire service personnel
- 27 who meet the qualifications set by the education board;
- 28 (6) require fire service personnel certified at any level to fulfill
- 29 continuing education requirements in order to maintain
- 30 certification; or
- 31 (7) contract or cooperate with any person and adopt rules under
- 32 IC 4-22-2, and as authorized under IC 36-8-10.5-7, to carry out its
- 33 responsibilities under this section.

34 (d) The education board may impose a reasonable fee for the  
 35 issuance of a certification described in subsection (c). The ~~board~~  
 36 **department** shall deposit the fee in the fire and building services fund  
 37 established by IC 22-12-6-1.

38 **(e) The education board is the ultimate authority for orders**  
 39 **issued by the department under this section.**

40 SECTION 21. IC 22-14-2-8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.187-2021,  
 41 SECTION 85, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 42 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 8. (a) Regardless of the extent of the investigation



1 conducted by a fire department under IC 36-8-17-7, the state fire  
 2 marshal or a department fire investigator ~~authorized by the state fire~~  
 3 ~~marshal~~ may conduct an investigation into the causes and  
 4 circumstances surrounding any fire or explosion.

5 (b) To carry out this section, the state fire marshal or a department  
 6 fire investigator ~~authorized by the state fire marshal~~ may:

7 (1) exercise its powers under section 4 of this chapter **and**  
 8 **subsection (e);**

9 (2) assist a prosecuting attorney with any criminal investigation;

10 (3) subpoena witnesses and order the production of books,  
 11 documents, and other evidence;

12 (4) give oaths and affirmations;

13 (5) take depositions and conduct hearings;

14 (6) separate witnesses and otherwise regulate the course of  
 15 proceedings; and

16 (7) obtain and secure evidence.

17 (c) Subpoenas, discovery orders, and protective orders issued under  
 18 this section shall be enforced under IC 4-21.5-6-2.

19 (d) A person who is summoned and testifies under this section is  
 20 entitled to receive a minimum salary per diem and a mileage allowance  
 21 from the fire and building services fund. The budget agency shall set  
 22 the amount of the per diem and mileage allowance.

23 (e) The state fire marshal and ~~the~~ department fire investigators  
 24 ~~authorized by the state fire marshal have~~ **are** law enforcement **officers**  
 25 **authority at all times** while discharging their duties ~~under this section~~  
 26 as employees of the department.

27 (f) The executive director of the department ~~has~~ **is a** law  
 28 enforcement ~~authority at all times officer~~ while discharging the duties  
 29 of the executive director. ~~under this section.~~

30 SECTION 22. IC 22-15-3.2-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.187-2021,  
 31 SECTION 105, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 32 [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 7. (a) A design release shall be  
 33 issued to an applicant without a plan review if:

34 (1) the applicant submits a complete application; and

35 (2) the department does not select the application for a plan  
 36 review under this section.

37 (b) The department may select any application for design release to  
 38 be subject to a plan review. The department has complete discretion in  
 39 the criteria used by the department to select a design release  
 40 application for a plan review. A criterion used by the department may  
 41 be whether the design professional has received disciplinary sanctions  
 42 under IC 25-1-11-12 within the preceding five (5) years.





1           **(c) Not later than July 1, 2025, the department shall identify and**  
 2 **publish a list of projects that qualify under subsection (a)(2) for**  
 3 **release without a plan review.**

4           SECTION 23. IC 22-15-5-16, AS AMENDED BY P.L.142-2020,  
 5 SECTION 23, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 6 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 16. (a) A practitioner shall comply with the  
 7 standards established under this licensing program. A practitioner is  
 8 subject to the exercise of the disciplinary sanctions under ~~subsection~~  
 9 ~~(b)~~ **IC 22-12-7-7** if the department finds that a practitioner has:

- 10           (1) engaged in or knowingly cooperated in fraud or material  
 11 deception in order to obtain a license to practice, including  
 12 cheating on a licensing examination;
- 13           (2) engaged in fraud or material deception in the course of  
 14 professional services or activities;
- 15           (3) advertised services or goods in a false or misleading manner;
- 16           (4) falsified or knowingly allowed another person to falsify  
 17 attendance records or certificates of completion of continuing  
 18 education courses provided under this chapter;
- 19           (5) been convicted of a crime that has a direct bearing on the  
 20 practitioner's ability to continue to practice competently;
- 21           (6) knowingly violated a state statute or rule or federal statute or  
 22 regulation regulating the profession for which the practitioner is  
 23 licensed;
- 24           (7) continued to practice although the practitioner has become  
 25 unfit to practice due to:
  - 26           (A) professional incompetence;
  - 27           (B) failure to keep abreast of current professional theory or  
 28 practice;
  - 29           (C) physical or mental disability; or
  - 30           (D) addiction to, abuse of, or severe dependency on alcohol or  
 31 other drugs that endanger the public by impairing a  
 32 practitioner's ability to practice safely;
- 33           (8) engaged in a course of lewd or immoral conduct in connection  
 34 with the delivery of services to the public;
- 35           (9) allowed the practitioner's name or a license issued under this  
 36 chapter to be used in connection with an individual or business  
 37 who renders services beyond the scope of that individual's or  
 38 business's training, experience, or competence;
- 39           (10) had disciplinary action taken against the practitioner or the  
 40 practitioner's license to practice in another state or jurisdiction on  
 41 grounds similar to those under this chapter;
- 42           (11) assisted another person in committing an act that would



1 constitute a ground for disciplinary sanction under this chapter;

2 or

3 (12) allowed a license issued by the department to be:

4 (A) used by another person; or

5 (B) displayed to the public when the license has expired, is  
6 inactive, is invalid, or has been revoked or suspended.

7 For purposes of subdivision (10), a certified copy of a record of  
8 disciplinary action constitutes prima facie evidence of a disciplinary  
9 action in another jurisdiction.

10 (b) The department may impose one (1) or more of the following  
11 sanctions if the department finds that a practitioner is subject to  
12 disciplinary sanctions under subsection (a):

13 (1) Permanent revocation of a practitioner's license.

14 (2) Suspension of a practitioner's license.

15 (3) Censure of a practitioner.

16 (4) Issuance of a letter of reprimand.

17 (5) Assessment of a civil penalty against the practitioner in  
18 accordance with the following:

19 (A) The civil penalty may not be more than one thousand  
20 dollars (\$1,000) for each violation listed in subsection (a);  
21 except for a finding of incompetency due to a physical or  
22 mental disability.

23 (B) When imposing a civil penalty, the department shall  
24 consider a practitioner's ability to pay the amount assessed. If  
25 the practitioner fails to pay the civil penalty within the time  
26 specified by the department, the department may suspend the  
27 practitioner's license without additional proceedings. However,  
28 a suspension may not be imposed if the sole basis for the  
29 suspension is the practitioner's inability to pay a civil penalty.

30 (6) Placement of a practitioner on probation status and  
31 requirement of the practitioner to:

32 (A) report regularly to the department upon the matters that  
33 are the basis of probation;

34 (B) limit practice to those areas prescribed by the department;

35 (C) continue or renew professional education approved by the  
36 department until a satisfactory degree of skill has been attained  
37 in those areas that are the basis of the probation; or

38 (D) perform or refrain from performing any acts, including  
39 community restitution or service without compensation, that  
40 the department considers appropriate to the public interest or  
41 to the rehabilitation or treatment of the practitioner.

42 The department may withdraw or modify this probation if the



1 department finds after a hearing that the deficiency that required  
 2 disciplinary action has been remedied or that changed  
 3 circumstances warrant a modification of the order.

4 ~~(e)~~ **(b)** If an applicant or a practitioner has engaged in or knowingly  
 5 cooperated in fraud or material deception to obtain a license to  
 6 practice, including cheating on the licensing examination, the  
 7 department may rescind the license if it has been granted, void the  
 8 examination or other fraudulent or deceptive material, and prohibit the  
 9 applicant from reapplying for the license for a length of time  
 10 established by the department.

11 ~~(d)~~ **(c)** The department may deny licensure to an applicant who has  
 12 had disciplinary action taken against the applicant or the applicant's  
 13 license to practice in another state or jurisdiction or who has practiced  
 14 without a license in violation of the law. A certified copy of the record  
 15 of disciplinary action is conclusive evidence of the other jurisdiction's  
 16 disciplinary action.

17 ~~(e)~~ **(d)** The department may order a practitioner to submit to a  
 18 reasonable physical or mental examination if the practitioner's physical  
 19 or mental capacity to practice safely and competently is at issue in a  
 20 disciplinary proceeding. Failure to comply with a department order to  
 21 submit to a physical or mental examination makes a practitioner liable  
 22 to temporary suspension under subsection ~~(j)~~: **(h)**.

23 ~~(f)~~ **(e)** Except as provided under subsection **(f)** or **(g)**, or ~~(h)~~, a  
 24 license may not be denied, revoked, or suspended because the applicant  
 25 or holder has been convicted of an offense. The acts from which the  
 26 applicant's or holder's conviction resulted may, however, be considered  
 27 as to whether the applicant or holder should be entrusted to serve the  
 28 public in a specific capacity.

29 ~~(g)~~ **(f)** The department may deny, suspend, or revoke a license  
 30 issued under this chapter if the individual who holds the license is  
 31 convicted of any of the following:

- 32 (1) Possession of cocaine or a narcotic drug under IC 35-48-4-6.
- 33 (2) Possession of methamphetamine under IC 35-48-4-6.1.
- 34 (3) Possession of a controlled substance under IC 35-48-4-7(a).
- 35 (4) Fraudulently obtaining a controlled substance under
- 36 IC 35-48-4-7(b) (for a crime committed before July 1, 2014) or
- 37 IC 35-48-4-7(c) (for a crime committed after June 30, 2014).
- 38 (5) Manufacture of paraphernalia as a Class D felony (for a crime
- 39 committed before July 1, 2014) or a Level 6 felony (for a crime
- 40 committed after June 30, 2014) under IC 35-48-4-8.1(b).
- 41 (6) Dealing in paraphernalia as a Class D felony (for a crime
- 42 committed before July 1, 2014) or a Level 6 felony (for a crime



committed after June 30, 2014) under IC 35-48-4-8.5(b).

(7) Possession of paraphernalia as a Class D felony (for a crime committed before July 1, 2014) or a Level 6 felony (for a crime committed after June 30, 2014) under IC 35-48-4-8.3(b) (before its amendment on July 1, 2015).

(8) Possession of marijuana, hash oil, hashish, or salvia as a Class D felony (for a crime committed before July 1, 2014) or a Level 6 felony (for a crime committed after June 30, 2014) under IC 35-48-4-11.

(9) A felony offense under IC 35-48-4 involving possession of a synthetic drug (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-321), possession of a controlled substance analog (as defined in IC 35-48-1-9.3), or possession of a synthetic drug lookalike substance (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-321.5 (before its repeal on July 1, 2019)) as a:

(A) Class D felony for a crime committed before July 1, 2014; or

(B) Level 6 felony for a crime committed after June 30, 2014; under IC 35-48-4-11.5 (before its repeal on July 1, 2019).

(10) Maintaining a common nuisance under IC 35-48-4-13 (repealed) or IC 35-45-1-5, if the common nuisance involves a controlled substance.

(11) An offense relating to registration, labeling, and prescription forms under IC 35-48-4-14.

~~(h)~~ (g) The department shall deny, revoke, or suspend a license issued under this chapter if the individual who holds the license is convicted of any of the following:

(1) Dealing in a controlled substance resulting in death under IC 35-42-1-1.5.

(2) Dealing in cocaine or a narcotic drug under IC 35-48-4-1.

(3) Dealing in methamphetamine under IC 35-48-4-1.1.

(4) Manufacturing methamphetamine under IC 35-48-4-1.2.

(5) Dealing in a schedule I, II, or III controlled substance under IC 35-48-4-2.

(6) Dealing in a schedule IV controlled substance under IC 35-48-4-3.

(7) Dealing in a schedule V controlled substance under IC 35-48-4-4.

(8) Dealing in a substance represented to be a controlled substance under IC 35-48-4-4.5 (repealed).

(9) Knowingly or intentionally manufacturing, advertising, distributing, or possessing with intent to manufacture, advertise, or distribute a substance represented to be a controlled substance



under IC 35-48-4-4.6.

(10) Dealing in a counterfeit substance under IC 35-48-4-5.

(11) Dealing in marijuana, hash oil, hashish, or salvia as a felony under IC 35-48-4-10.

(12) An offense under IC 35-48-4 involving the manufacture or sale of a synthetic drug (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-321), a synthetic drug lookalike substance (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-321.5 (before its repeal on July 1, 2019)) under IC 35-48-4-10.5 (before its repeal on July 1, 2019), a controlled substance analog (as defined in IC 35-48-1-9.3), or a substance represented to be a controlled substance (as described in IC 35-48-4-4.6).

(13) A violation of any federal or state drug law or rule related to wholesale legend drug distributors licensed under IC 25-26-14.

~~(i) A decision of the department under subsections (b) through (h) may be appealed to the commission under IC 4-21.5-3-7.~~

~~(j) (h)~~ The department may temporarily suspend a practitioner's license under IC 4-21.5-4 before a final adjudication or during the appeals process if the department finds that a practitioner represents a clear and immediate danger to the public's health, safety, or property if the practitioner is allowed to continue to practice.

~~(k) (i)~~ On receipt of a complaint or an information alleging that a person licensed under this chapter has engaged in or is engaging in a practice that jeopardizes the public health, safety, or welfare, the department shall initiate an investigation against the person.

~~(l) (j)~~ Any complaint filed with the office of the attorney general alleging a violation of this licensing program shall be referred to the department for summary review and for its general information and any authorized action at the time of the filing.

~~(m) (k)~~ The department shall conduct a fact finding investigation as the department considers proper in relation to the complaint.

~~(n) The department may reinstate a license that has been suspended under this section if, after a hearing, the department is satisfied that the applicant is able to practice with reasonable skill, safety, and competency to the public. As a condition of reinstatement, the department may impose disciplinary or corrective measures authorized under this chapter.~~

~~(o) The department may not reinstate a license that has been revoked under this chapter. An individual whose license has been revoked under this chapter may not apply for a new license until seven (7) years after the date of revocation.~~

~~(p) The department shall seek to achieve consistency in the~~



1 application of sanctions authorized in this chapter. Significant  
 2 departures from prior decisions involving similar conduct must be  
 3 explained in the department's findings or orders.

4 (q) (l) A practitioner may petition the department to accept the  
 5 surrender of the practitioner's license. ~~instead of having a hearing~~  
 6 ~~before the commission.~~ The practitioner may not surrender the  
 7 practitioner's license without the written approval of the department,  
 8 and the department may impose any conditions appropriate to the  
 9 surrender or reinstatement of a surrendered license.

10 (r) (m) A practitioner who has been subjected to disciplinary  
 11 sanctions may be required by the commission to pay the costs of the  
 12 proceeding. The practitioner's ability to pay shall be considered when  
 13 costs are assessed. If the practitioner fails to pay the costs, a suspension  
 14 may not be imposed solely upon the practitioner's inability to pay the  
 15 amount assessed. The costs are limited to costs for the following:

- 16 (1) Court reporters.
- 17 (2) Transcripts.
- 18 (3) Certification of documents.
- 19 (4) Photo duplication.
- 20 (5) Witness attendance and mileage fees.
- 21 (6) Postage.
- 22 (7) Expert witnesses.
- 23 (8) Depositions.
- 24 (9) Notarizations.

25 SECTION 24. IC 35-31.5-2-185, AS AMENDED BY P.L.122-2023,  
 26 SECTION 17, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 27 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 185. (a) "Law enforcement officer" means:

- 28 (1) a police officer (including a tribal police officer, a correctional  
 29 police officer, and a hospital police officer employed by a hospital  
 30 police department established under IC 16-18-4), sheriff,  
 31 constable, marshal, prosecuting attorney, special prosecuting  
 32 attorney, special deputy prosecuting attorney, the securities  
 33 commissioner, **the state fire marshal, the executive director of**  
 34 **the department of homeland security**, or the inspector general;  
 35 (2) a deputy of any of those persons;  
 36 (3) an investigator for a prosecuting attorney or for the inspector  
 37 general;  
 38 (4) a conservation officer;  
 39 (5) an enforcement officer of the alcohol and tobacco  
 40 commission;  
 41 (6) an enforcement officer of the securities division of the office  
 42 of the secretary of state; ~~or~~



(7) a gaming agent employed under IC 4-33-4.5 or a gaming control officer employed by the gaming control division under IC 4-33-20; **or**

**(8) a fire investigator of the department of homeland security.**

(b) "Law enforcement officer", for purposes of IC 35-42-2-1, includes an alcoholic beverage enforcement officer, as set forth in IC 35-42-2-1.

(c) "Law enforcement officer", for purposes of IC 35-45-15, includes a federal enforcement officer, as set forth in IC 35-45-15-3.

(d) "Law enforcement officer", for purposes of IC 35-44.1-3-1 and IC 35-44.1-3-2, includes a school resource officer (as defined in IC 20-26-18.2-1) and a school corporation police officer appointed under IC 20-26-16.

(e) "Law enforcement officer", for purposes of IC 35-40.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 35-40.5-1-1.

SECTION 25. IC 36-7-2-9.1, AS ADDED BY P.L.157-2024, SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 9.1. (a) This section applies only to a Class 2 structure for which a building permit is issued by a city, town, or county after June 30, 2024.

(b) This section does not apply to:

- (1) a manufactured housing community; or
- (2) a mobile home community;

that is licensed, permitted, and inspected by the Indiana department of health or a local board of health.

(c) As used in this section, "Class 2 structure" has the meaning set forth in IC 22-12-1-5.

(d) A city, town, or county that requires a building permit for the construction of a Class 2 structure ~~may provide for~~ **shall allow** the inspection to be conducted by:

- (1) an individual who is employed by the city, town, or county as a building inspector;
- (2) an individual who is employed by another city, town, or county as a building inspector; or
- (3) a qualified individual who is:
  - (A) an architect registered under IC 25-4-1;
  - (B) a professional engineer registered under IC 25-31-1;
  - (C) a certified building official; or
  - (D) a home inspector licensed under IC 25-20.2.

SECTION 26. IC 36-8-10.5-1.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: **Sec. 1.5. As used in this chapter,**



1 **"department" refers to the department of homeland security**  
 2 **established by IC 10-19-2-1.**

3 SECTION 27. IC 36-8-10.5-7.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.187-2021,  
 4 SECTION 142, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 5 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 7.5. (a) Except as provided in  
 6 subsection (b), an individual whose employment by a fire department  
 7 as a full-time firefighter begins after December 31, 2009, must  
 8 complete the training for Firefighter I and Firefighter II during the  
 9 firefighter's first year of employment. The fire department that employs  
 10 a firefighter shall report to the ~~education board~~ **department** when the  
 11 firefighter has completed the training requirements established by this  
 12 subsection.

13 (b) The ~~education board~~ **department** may grant a firefighter any  
 14 number of extensions of six (6) months to complete the training  
 15 required under subsection (a). An extension must be requested by the  
 16 fire department that employs the firefighter. An extension may be  
 17 requested for any reason, including the following:

18 (1) The firefighter has been attending training in accordance with  
 19 section 8 of this chapter in any of the following:

- 20 (A) Hazardous materials.
- 21 (B) Paramedic training.
- 22 (C) Emergency medical technician training.
- 23 (D) Technical training.

24 (2) The firefighter was unable to complete the training due to  
 25 economic reasons.

26 (c) The ~~education board~~ **department** shall determine whether a  
 27 firefighter receives an extension under this section.

28 SECTION 28. IC 36-8-10.5-8 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 29 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 8. (a) The training may  
 30 be conducted at:

- 31 (1) a location within the political subdivision employing a  
 32 full-time firefighter;
- 33 (2) the headquarters of the volunteer fire department where a  
 34 volunteer firefighter is seeking membership; or
- 35 (3) any other facility where the training is offered.

36 (b) The training must be conducted by personnel certified as  
 37 instructors by the ~~education board~~ **department**.

38 SECTION 29. IC 36-8-10.5-9 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
 39 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 9. The ~~education board~~  
 40 **department** shall certify fire personnel who successfully complete the  
 41 minimum basic training requirements.

42 SECTION 30. IC 36-8-10.5-12, AS ADDED BY P.L.72-2020,





SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 12. (a) The best practices fund is established for the purpose of providing matching grants to political subdivisions and volunteer fire departments to purchase equipment and other gear to implement best practices established under section 11 of this chapter.

(b) The fund shall be administered by the ~~education board~~ **department**.

(c) The fund consists of:

(1) appropriations from the general assembly; and

(2) amounts deposited from any other public or private source.

(d) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from money in the fund.

(e) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not currently needed to meet obligations of the fund in the same manner as other public money may be invested. Interest that accrues from these investments shall be deposited in the fund.

(f) Money in the fund at the end of the state fiscal year does not revert to the state general fund.

(g) The ~~education board~~ **department** shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to implement this section.

SECTION 31. [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE] (a) **As used in this SECTION, "division" means the department of education's division of school building physical security and safety established by IC 20-19-3-14, before its repeal by this act.**

(b) **As used in this SECTION, "office" means the department of homeland security's office of school safety established by IC 10-19-3.5-4, as added by this act.**

(c) **On July 1, 2025, all agreements and liabilities of the division are transferred to the office, as the successor agency.**

(d) **On July 1, 2025, all records and property of the division, including appropriations and other funds under the control or supervision of the division, are transferred to the office, as the successor agency.**

(e) **After July 1, 2025, any amounts owed to the division before July 1, 2025, are considered to be owed to the office, as the successor agency.**

(f) **After July 1, 2025, a reference to the division in a statute, rule, or other document is considered a reference to the office, as the successor agency.**

(g) **This SECTION expires July 1, 2026.**

SECTION 32. **An emergency is declared for this act.**



## COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Veterans Affairs and Public Safety, to which was referred House Bill 1637, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 3, between lines 15 and 16, begin a new line blocked left and insert:

**"The applicable school corporation or charter school must comply with any requests made by the office under this subsection."**

Page 4, between lines 10 and 11, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 3. IC 10-21-1-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.201-2023, SECTION 128, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 2. (a) The Indiana secured school fund is established to provide:

(1) matching grants to school corporations, charter schools, and accredited nonpublic schools, where the matching grants may be used to:

(A) employ a school resource officer, employ a law enforcement officer, or enter into a contract or a memorandum of understanding with a:

- (i) local law enforcement agency;
- (ii) private entity; or
- (iii) nonprofit corporation;

to employ a school resource officer or a law enforcement officer;

(B) conduct:

- (i) a site vulnerability assessment of the buildings within a school corporation or the buildings that are operated by a charter school or accredited nonpublic school; or
- (ii) critical incident digital mapping of the buildings within a school corporation or the buildings that are operated by a charter school or accredited nonpublic school;

(C) purchase equipment, hardware, materials, and technology to:

- (i) restrict access to school property and classrooms;
- (ii) assist with visitor management on school property;
- (iii) expedite notification of first responders;
- (iv) expedite access to school property for first responders;
- (v) provide school staff with information about the open or closed status of interior and exterior doors;
- (vi) detect fire, chemical, visual, or audible threats;



- (vii) enhance emergency communications inside the building; or
- (viii) assist with emergency medical response on school property;
- (D) implement a student and parent support services plan as described in IC 20-34-9;
- (E) purchase or provide training for a canine trained to detect drugs and illegal substances, explosives, or firearms, or to otherwise provide protection for students and school employees and the canine shall:
  - (i) be primarily assigned to a school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school;
  - (ii) be primarily assigned to a school resource officer or law enforcement officer described in clause (A) who has received appropriate training for handling a canine trained to detect drugs and illegal substances, explosives, or firearms, or to otherwise provide protection for students and school employees, including training regarding handling a canine in a school setting; and
  - (iii) receive continuous training as appropriate;
- (F) provide funding for school employees to receive training, including expenses for per diem, travel, and lodging, related to:
  - (i) site vulnerability assessments;
  - (ii) mental health or behavioral health threat assessments;
  - (iii) multi-disciplinary threat assessment teams; or
  - (iv) emergency preparedness or response activities;
- (G) provide funding for school resource officers or law enforcement officers described in clause (A) to receive training, including expenses for per diem, travel, and lodging, related to handling a canine trained to detect drugs and illegal substances, explosives, or firearms, or to otherwise provide protection for students and school employees;
- (H) purchase student safety management technology;
- (I) design and construct additions or renovations on school property if the primary purpose of the construction project is to enhance the physical security of the school building; or
- (J) implement a bullying prevention program; ~~and~~
- (2) one (1) time grants to enable school corporations, charter schools, and accredited nonpublic schools with the sheriff for the county in which the school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school is located, to provide the initial set up



costs for an active event warning system; **and**  
**(3) financial assistance for projects of the office of school safety that are approved by the board.**

(b) A school corporation or charter school may use money received under a matching grant for a purpose listed in subsection (a) to provide a response to a threat in a manner that the school corporation or charter school sees fit, including firearms training or other self-defense training.

(c) The fund shall be administered by the department of homeland security.

(d) The fund consists of:

- (1) appropriations from the general assembly;
- (2) federal grants;
- (3) amounts deposited from any other public or private source; and
- (4) amounts deposited under IC 33-37-9-4.

(e) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from money in the fund.

(f) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same manner as other public money may be invested. Interest that accrues from these investments shall be deposited in the fund.

(g) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert to the state general fund."

Page 14, line 36, after "security," insert "**a local unit of government**,".

Page 16, between lines 27 and 28, begin a new paragraph and insert:  
 "SECTION 14. IC 22-12-2.5-3, AS ADDED BY P.L.155-2023, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 3. The commission shall decide which building codes shall be reviewed each calendar year, focusing on the oldest building codes for review. **Except as permitted under section 4(b) of this chapter**, the commission may not ~~review~~ **adopt a final rule under IC 4-22-2-29 for more than three (3) building codes during any calendar year: twelve (12) month period.**"

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to HB 1637 as introduced.)

BARTELS

EH 1637—LS 7685/DI 116



Committee Vote: yeas 10, nays 0.

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COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred House Bill 1637, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to HB 1637 as printed February 6, 2025.)

THOMPSON

Committee Vote: Yeas 19, Nays 0

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COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. President: The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation, to which was referred House Bill No. 1637, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

- Page 1, line 9, delete "in" and insert "**by**".
- Page 1, line 10, after "chapter" insert ",".
- Page 3, line 20, delete "classified" and insert "**confidential**".
- Page 16, line 23, delete "furnishing" and insert "**furnishings**".
- Page 20, line 15, delete "who" and insert "**that**".
- Page 21, line 1, delete "does" and insert "**do**".
- Page 21, line 13, after "fire service" insert "**personnel**".
- Page 31, line 18, strike "education board" and insert "**department**".

and when so amended that said bill do pass and be reassigned to the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

(Reference is to HB 1637 as printed February 13, 2025.)

CRIDER, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0.

EH 1637—LS 7685/DI 116

