

Below is a list of 2026 Legislative Changes effective July 1, 2026 and will impact officers.

Bill No.	Code Citation	Summary
SEA 76	I.C. 4-6-2-1.5(f)	Law enforcement officers/agencies may receive representation by the attorney general for a civil suit filed because of their enforcement of immigration laws, if the officer did not violate federal or state law and the officer is requesting the representation.
SEA 119	I.C. 35-42-4-10	Adds working at a facility or event primarily directed toward a child less than 18 to list of locations where a sexually violent predator cannot knowingly or intentionally work for compensation or as a volunteer. Doing so commits a Level 6 felony.
SEA 140	I.C. 35-45-2-1	<p>Adds to the intimidation statute as a Level 5 felony, threats made to a member of the general assembly.</p> <p>Adds to the definition of “threat” posting personal information with the intent that the posting will result in bodily injury, damage to person’s property or commission of a crime against the person.</p>
SEA 148	I.C. 36-8-25.5-1	Adds LaPorte and Porter County to the Indiana Crime Guns Task Force.
SEA 160	<p>I.C. 35-38-1-7.1</p> <p>I.C. 35-45-3-4</p>	<p>Adds wearing a mask during the commission of a criminal offense to the list of sentencing aggravators.</p> <p>Establishes in code malicious littering, a Class A misdemeanor if you place refuse on the property of another with intent to cause the owner, occupant or invitee, family or person closely associated with one of those individuals to reasonably fear for their safety.</p>
SEA 284	I.C. 36-8-29.1	Changes the authority of Law Enforcement Civilian Oversight Boards to advisory only with no binding authority over a law enforcement agency.
SEA 285	I.C. 36-1-31.5	<p>New chapter “Street Camping”: new Class C misdemeanor to knowingly or intentionally camp, sleep or use for long term shelter public land, after being issued a warning and at least 48 hours elapse since the warning and the person is still camping at or near the same location.</p> <p>Also requires each law enforcement agency to provide to state police the number of citations and arrests made under this chapter in the previous year by March 1 of the current year.</p>
HEA 1035	I.C. 35-46-1-4	Adds as a defense to the Neglect of a Dependent statute if the person reasonably believed that an independent activity was not dangerous

HEA 1056	I.C. 35-44.1-3-1(c)	<p>Resolves a previous code conflict regarding felony charges for resisting law enforcement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 6 felony if the person uses a vehicle to resist • Level 5 felony if while resisting the person draws or uses a gun, inflicts/causes moderate bodily injury or operates a vehicle creating a substantial risk of bodily injury • Level 4 felony if while resisting the person operates a vehicle causing serious bodily injury or has a prior unrelated conviction for Resist while using a vehicle • Level 3 felony if while resisting the person operates a vehicle causing death or catastrophic bodily injury of another person • Level 2 felony if while resisting the person operates a vehicle causing death or catastrophic injury to a firefighter, EMS provider or law enforcement officer engaged in their official duties
HEA 1062	I.C. 14-15-3-8.1	<p>Adds that an individual may not operate a boat for purposes of wake boarding or wake surfing between sunset and sunrise</p> <p>Adds that a boat may not operate on a small lake for purposes of wake boarding or wake surfing unless it is during the time and day of a speed exemption on small lakes (there is a speed limit of 10 mph on small lakes)</p>
HEA 1155	I.C. 9-21-23.5	<p>Establishes a pilot program for HOA run subdivisions with at least 1500 lots and 15 miles of private road, wherein the HOA can enter into an agreement or employ off duty officers, in uniform and a fully marked car, to enforce speed limits and stop sign requirements. This program expires July 1, 2028.</p>
HEA 1165	<p>I.C. 35-43-4-2</p> <p>I.C. 35-46-3-7</p> <p>I.C. 35-46-3-11</p>	<p>Adds to the Theft statute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 6 felony if the item stolen is a domestic animal <p>Adds to the Abandonment and Neglect of Vertebrate Animals statute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 6 felony, • committing the offense in the presence of a minor; • abandonment or neglect resulting in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • serious permanent disfigurement, • unconsciousness, • permanent loss or impairment or death; • has 10 or more vertebrate animals resulting in failure to provide adequate food, water, overcrowding or harmful living conditions <p>Adds to Cruelty to Law Enforcement Animal statute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 5 felony if actions lead to death of a law enforcement animal • Defense that the person’s actions were objectively reasonable and taken in good faith or their actions did not contribute to the deploying of the law enforcement animal

HEA 1165	I.C. 35-46-3-12 I.C. 35-46-3-12.5	<p>Adds to Torture or Mutilation of a Vertebrate Animal statute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 6 felony, • committing the offense in the presence of a minor; • act results in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • serious permanent disfigurement, • unconsciousness, • permanent loss or impairment or death; <p>Adds to Domestic Violence Animal Cruelty statute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 6 felony abuses, abandons or neglects
HEA 1200	I.C. 9-19-12-1 I.C. 9-24-3-2.5 I.C. 9-24-6.1-2.7 I.C. 9-24-6.1-3.3 I.C. 9-24-6.1-3.4	<p>For motor vehicles constructed or loaded as to obstruct rear view of driver, vehicles may now be equipped with either a mirror as to reflect the view 200 feet to the rear, <u>or a functioning camera that provides for a view of 200 feet to the rear.</u></p> <p>Minimum age for a driver’s license is now 16 years of age (rather than 16 years and 90 days) with the same previous conditions met.</p> <p>New statute for commercial motor vehicle operation: must demonstrate proficiency of the English language sufficient to converse, read signs, respond to officers, and complete records.</p> <p>New crime: Level 6 felony to knowingly make, present, or use a false public record represented to be a valid commercial driver’s license.</p> <p>New crime: Level 6 felony to operate a CMV with a CDL issued outside of the U.S. without also having in their possession the required additional legal entry documents to travel into the U.S.</p> <p>In addition to criminal penalties, the individual may be civilly fined \$5,000 and the hiring entity may be fined \$50,000.</p> <p>New statute: a CMV training entity may not educate, train, or prepare a person to operate a CMV if the person is not eligible to obtain a CDL under Indiana/federal law and should have known with reasonable diligence that the person is not eligible.</p> <p>Civil fine of \$50,000 for each violation.</p> <p>The business may not operate in substantial noncompliance with commercial driver training standards established in Indiana or federal law. Civil fine of \$50,000 for each violation.</p>
HEA 1249	I.C. 9-30-7-3	<p>Requires an officer to offer a chemical test that includes a blood test to any person they believed operated a vehicle that was involved in a fatal accident</p> <p>Removed the separate Operating a Motorboat while Intoxicated statute and amended the definition of “vehicle” to include transportation “by water”. Any intoxicated boating arrest is now under the Operating a Vehicle statutes.</p>

HEA 1303

I.C. 35-42-4-4.5

Adds a new section Child Sex Abuse Material to Child Exploitation statute:

- engaging in sexual conduct with intent to aid another person to produce or transmit an image of the conduct
 - Solicit a child less than 18, or who the person believes is less than 18, to engage in or assist another in engaging in sexual conduct with intent to produce or transmit an image of the conduct
 - Produce or create an image containing sexual conduct by a child less than 18, or who appears to be a child less than 18
 - Level 3 felony
 - Prior conviction for a sex offense or
 - Conduct depicted involves:
 - Bestiality, child less than 12 or appears less than 12, violence or depiction of violence, child molesting, pecuniary gain or distributing the depiction of a child less than 18 with the intent the child commit a crime
 - Level 2 felony
 - If the offense is committed by force or threat of force
- Level 6 felony if person with intent to view the image, knowingly or intentionally possesses or accesses an image depicting or describing sexual conduct:
- By child known to be less than 18; child less than or appears to be less than 18 if the image is obscene; stimulated sexual conduct involving a representation that appears to be a child less than 18 if the image is obscene
- Level 5 felony if the person knowingly or intentionally distributes image that depicts or describes sexual conduct:
- By child known to be less than 18; child less than or appears to be less than 18 if the image is obscene; stimulated sexual conduct involving a representation that appears to be a child less than 18 if the image is obscene
- Level 4 felony (intent to view the image)
- Prior conviction for a sex offense or
 - Conduct depicted involves:
 - Bestiality, child less than 12 or appears less than 12, violence or depiction of violence, child molesting, pecuniary gain or distributing the depiction of a child less than 18 with the intent the child commit a crime
- Level 3 felony (distribute the image)
- Prior conviction for a sex offense or
 - Conduct depicted involves:
 - Bestiality, child less than 12 or appears less than 12, violence or depiction of violence, child molesting, pecuniary gain or distributing the depiction of a

HEA 1303	I.C. 35-42-4-4.5	<p>child less than 18 with the intent the child commit a crime</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defense if school employee/DCS employee/Attorney and the acts constituting the elements of the offense were solely performed in the scope of their employment • Defense if a wireless device or social network website was used AND the defendant is not more than 4 years +/- the person who is depicted or received the image AND the defendant and person who is depicted or received the image had a dating or ongoing personal relationship and the defendant is less than 22 AND the person who is depicted or received the image accepted the defendant's conduct. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Defense does not apply if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The person who receives the image sends to someone other than the person who sent, or is depicted in, the image • The image is of a person other than who sent or received the image • The distribution violates a protective order, an ex parte order, a workplace violence restraining order, a no contact order, a pre-trial order, a sentencing order or any other similar order. • Defense if the person was less than 18 at the time the offense was committed AND the defendant is not more than 4 years +/- the person who is depicted or received the image AND the defendant and person who is depicted or received the image had a dating or ongoing personal relationship AND the person who is depicted or received the image accepted the defendant's conduct.
HEA 1343	I.C.35-47-9-2	<p>Adds to Possession of Firearms on school property</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class B misdemeanor to knowingly or intentionally possess an imitation firearm on school property or a school bus • Defense if the imitation firearm is legally possessed is locked in the trunk/kept in glove compartment/stored out of plain sight