



Indiana's 2026 Legislative Session: Week Three

Things were moving fast at the General Assembly this week! Because this is a short, non-budgetary session, bills that don't receive a committee hearing this week or next are pretty much done for the year. ICADV continues to track legislation that impacts domestic violence survivors and the programs who serve them. We also support legislation that can help to prevent domestic violence by fostering community safety and stability. Here's an update on the status of bills that we are tracking.

Economic Matters

SB197 Debt collection. Sen. Walker (G). Sen Walker (K). Sen. Alting.

ICADV supports this bill

Amends the limitation on garnishment provided in the Uniform Consumer Credit Code. Provides that tangible personal property, including choses in action, deposit accounts, and cash (but excluding debts owing and income owing), of \$1,500 is exempt from bankruptcy (current law is \$300). **A committee hearing was held on January 14th, the chair did not take a vote, but encouraged the opposing parties to discuss possible compromises. The committee will revisit the bill on January 21st.**

Education

SB 199 Various Education Matters. Sen. Raatz. Sen. Rogers

ICADV supports this bill.

Makes changes to the composition of the case review panel established by an interscholastic athletic association. Requires the secretary of education, not later than December 1, 2026, to identify key metrics and activities concerning civic literacy and to submit the information to the general assembly. Requires the secretary of education, not later than December 1, 2026,

to identify and make certain recommendations concerning paid leave for employees following certain events and to submit the findings to the general assembly. Provides that a school in which fewer than an average of 75% of the students over the course of three consecutive years achieved a valid passing score on the determinant evaluation of reading skills approved by the state board of education must comply with certain requirements.

Healthcare

SB 109 Confidentiality of pregnancy termination reports. Sen. Jackson

ICADV supports this bill

States that a health care provider's report concerning the performance of an abortion that is submitted to the Indiana department of health is a medical record, confidential, and not subject to disclosure as a public record.

Housing and Homelessness

SB 285—Street camping. Sen. Carrasco, Sen Koch.

ICADV opposes this bill.

Requires the Indiana housing and community development authority (authority) to establish eligibility criteria for a potential recipient to be included in the authority's application for funding under the federal continuum of care program (program). Requires a recipient of program funding to submit an annual report to the authority. Prohibits an individual from camping, sleeping, or using for long term shelter land owned by the state or a political subdivision, unless the land has been authorized for that use under the provisions added by the bill or another law. Provides, if certain elements are met, that a person who knowingly or intentionally uses land owned by the state or a political subdivision for unauthorized camping, sleeping, or long term shelter commits a Class C misdemeanor. Prohibits a political subdivision from adopting or enforcing any policy that prohibits or discourages the enforcement of any order or ordinance prohibiting public camping, sleeping, or other obstruction of a sidewalk. Authorizes a resident of the political subdivision, an owner of a business located in the political subdivision, or the attorney general to bring a civil action to enjoin a political subdivision that adopts or enforces such a policy. Requires: (1) each local law enforcement agency to provide to the state police department the number of arrests made for violations of the prohibition of street camping; and (2) the state police department to provide this information to the authority. **The bill passed out of a committee hearing with an 8-2 vote on January 14th and will now move to the House.**

Law Enforcement

SB 2-3. Constitutional Amendment—Bail procedures. Sen. Freeman.

Provides that offenses other than murder are not bailable if the state proves: (1) by a preponderance of the evidence that the proof is evident or the presumption strong; and (2) by clear and convincing evidence that the arrestee is dangerous and that no conditions of release will reasonably protect the safety of other persons or the community. Establishes procedures for a bail hearing. Removes duplicative provisions concerning repeat violent arrestees. **The bill passed out of committee with a vote of 7-1 on January 13, and will now move to the House.**

SB 9. Victim impact statements. Sen. Brown

Victim impact statements at sentencing. Requires a defendant to be present in the courtroom while a victim makes a statement concerning the crime and the sentence unless the defendant presents a safety risk or causes a significant disruption. **The bill passed out of committee with a 9-0 vote on January 13th and will now move to the House.**

HB 1094 Protective orders. Rep. Delaney.

ICADV supports this bill

Codifies the Uniform Recognition and Enforcement of Canadian Domestic Violence Protection Orders Act. Provides procedures for enforcement of a Canadian domestic violence protection order (protection order) by a law enforcement officer and the court. Provides that a protection order may be registered in Indiana.

HB 1250. Notice of release, victim notification. Rep O'Brien.

ICADV supports this bill

Requires the department of correction to electronically notify, at least seven days in advance, the: (1) county sheriff; (2) prosecuting attorney; and (3) chief of police; of the county or municipality into which the department will release a serious violent felon, and of the county or municipality where the serious violent felon committed the offense. Requires: (1) a court; and (2) the prosecuting attorney or the prosecuting attorney's victim assistance program; to notify a victim of the automated victim assistance notification program.

HB 1299. Firearm surrender. Rep Smith.

ICADV supports this bill

Provides that a person who: (1) has been convicted of a crime of domestic violence; and (2) knowingly or intentionally possesses a firearm; commits a Class A misdemeanor. Specifies defenses. Requires a court to issue an order, upon entry of a judgment of conviction for domestic battery or a crime of domestic violence, that: (1) prohibits ownership or possession of a firearm; (2) requires the defendant to surrender: (A) any firearm owned or possessed by the defendant; and (B) any license or permit to carry a handgun (license) owned or possessed by the defendant; and (3) requires confiscation, within 72 hours, of any firearm or license owned or possessed by the defendant. Provides that a domestic batterer who knowingly or intentionally fails to surrender a certain firearm or license commits a Class A misdemeanor, enhanced to a Level 6 felony in specific instances. Provides defenses. Specifies how a

confiscated firearm or license shall be returned or disposed of if a person's right to possess a firearm is restored. ICADV supports this bill.

HB 1310 Domestic violence investigations. Rep. Bauer.

ICADV supports this bill.

Requires a law enforcement officer to administer a lethality assessment for domestic violence incidents. Requires data to be transmitted to a local domestic violence fatality review team and the statewide domestic violence fatality review committee. Provides that a law enforcement officer responding to the scene of an alleged crime involving domestic or family violence shall use all reasonable means to prevent further violence, including administering a lethality assessment. Provides that all statements communicated in a lethality assessment are not admissible as evidence against the victim in any judicial proceeding and not discoverable in any litigation. Provides that the statewide domestic violence fatality review committee shall collect and analyze data concerning domestic violence lethality assessments.

For full details of bills filed and action steps visit: <https://iga.in.gov/>