

HOUSE BILL No. 1415

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 5-2-6-28.5; IC 35-31.5-2-312.5; IC 35-40.5.

Synopsis: State sexual assault response team. Provides the state sexual assault response team (team) is established within the criminal justice institute. Requires the team to meet quarterly through July 1, 2027. Requires the team to evaluate local sexual assault response teams, to determine best practices, to evaluate sexual assault training, and to make recommendations.

Effective: July 1, 2025.

Cash

January 13, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Veterans Affairs and Public Safety.



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.

HOUSE BILL No. 1415

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 5-2-6-28.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
3 1, 2025]: **Sec. 28.5. (a) The state sexual assault response team is**
4 **established within the criminal justice institute.**
5 **(b) The state sexual assault response team is comprised of the**
6 **following fourteen (14) members:**
7 **(1) The executive director of the prosecuting attorneys council**
8 **of Indiana or the executive director's designee.**
9 **(2) The executive director of the criminal justice institute or**
10 **the executive director's designee.**
11 **(3) The superintendent of the state police department or the**
12 **superintendent's designee.**
13 **(4) The executive director of the public defender council of**
14 **Indiana or the executive director's designee.**
15 **(5) The president of the Indiana sheriffs' association or the**
16 **president's designee.**
17 **(6) The president of the Indiana judges association or the**



- 1 **president's designee.**
 2 **(7) A victim advocate from a prosecuting attorney's office**
 3 **appointed by the executive director of the prosecuting**
 4 **attorneys council of Indiana.**
 5 **(8) An advocate for sexual assault victims appointed by the**
 6 **governor.**
 7 **(9) A medical professional with experience treating sexual**
 8 **assault victims, appointed by the president pro tempore of the**
 9 **senate.**
 10 **(10) An individual with experience working on a county sexual**
 11 **assault response team appointed by the speaker of the house**
 12 **of representatives.**
 13 **(11) The director of the Indiana Coalition for Crime Victims**
 14 **Rights or the director's designee.**
 15 **(12) A disability advocate who has been trained in advocating**
 16 **for the victims of sexual assault with disabilities appointed by**
 17 **the director of The Arc of Indiana.**
 18 **(13) An attorney licensed to practice in Indiana who**
 19 **specializes in representing victims of sexual assault appointed**
 20 **by the chief justice of the supreme court.**
 21 **(14) A forensic nurse who works with victims of sexual assault**
 22 **and participates in evidence collection, or a forensic**
 23 **psychologist who understands the neurobiology of trauma**
 24 **appointed by commissioner of the Indiana department of**
 25 **health.**
 26 **(c) The executive director of the criminal justice institute or the**
 27 **executive director's designee is the chairperson of the state sexual**
 28 **assault response team.**
 29 **(d) The state sexual assault response team shall meet at least**
 30 **quarterly from July 1, 2025, through July 1, 2027.**
 31 **(e) The state sexual assault response team shall not later than:**
 32 **(1) June 30, 2026, determine the number of county and local**
 33 **sexual assault teams that have been established;**
 34 **(2) June 30, 2026, survey each county and local sexual assault**
 35 **team to determine their best practices;**
 36 **(3) June 30, 2026, contact each law enforcement agency in**
 37 **Indiana to inquire about their sexual assault investigation**
 38 **protocols and practices;**
 39 **(4) June 30, 2027, evaluate the sexual assault investigation**
 40 **training at the law enforcement training academies;**
 41 **(5) June 30, 2027, evaluate the sexual assault investigation**
 42 **annual training for law enforcement officers;**



1 **(6) June 30, 2027, compile the best practices for sexual assault**
 2 **investigation and training; and**

3 **(7) November 1, 2027, file a report with the legislative council,**
 4 **in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6, and post the report**
 5 **on the criminal justice institute's website, detailing the**
 6 **statewide sexual assault response team's findings and**
 7 **recommendations for legislation to improve and promote best**
 8 **practices for sexual assault investigations and sexual assault**
 9 **investigation training in Indiana.**

10 **(f) The state sexual assault response team shall develop victim's**
 11 **rights documents required under:**

12 **(1) IC 35-40.5-4-2;**

13 **(2) IC 35-40.5-5-1; and**

14 **(3) IC 35-40.5-7-1.**

15 **(g) The state sexual assault response team shall receive**
 16 **qualitative data from survivors of sexual assault regarding their**
 17 **experiences with law enforcement when reporting sexual assault.**

18 **(h) The criminal justice institute shall provide staff support to**
 19 **the state sexual assault response team.**

20 SECTION 2. IC 35-31.5-2-312.5, AS ADDED BY P.L.58-2020,
 21 SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 22 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 312.5. "State sexual assault response team", for
 23 purposes of IC 35-40.5, has the meaning set forth in ~~IC 35-40.5-1-1.~~
 24 **IC 35-40.5-1-1(5).**

25 SECTION 3. IC 35-40.5-1-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.32-2021,
 26 SECTION 94, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 27 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 1. The following definitions apply throughout this
 28 article:

29 (1) "Law enforcement officer" means any of the following:

30 (A) A law enforcement officer (as defined in
 31 IC 35-31.5-2-185).

32 (B) A state educational institution police officer appointed
 33 under IC 21-39-4.

34 (C) A school corporation police officer appointed under
 35 IC 20-26-16.

36 (D) A school resource officer (as defined in IC 20-26-18.2-1).

37 (E) A police officer of a private postsecondary educational
 38 institution whose governing board has appointed the police
 39 officer under IC 21-17-5-2.

40 (2) "Provider" has the meaning set forth in IC 16-21-8-0.2.

41 (3) "Relative" has the meaning set forth in IC 35-42-2-1(b).

42 (4) "Sexual assault forensic evidence" means the results collected



1 from a forensic medical examination of a victim by a provider.

2 (5) "State sexual assault response team" means the statewide
3 sexual assault response team ~~coordinated~~ **established by the**
4 **Indiana prosecuting attorneys council and the Indiana criminal**
5 **justice institute. IC 5-2-6-28.5.**

6 (6) "Victim" means an individual:

7 (A) who is a victim of sexual assault (as defined in
8 IC 5-26.5-1-8); or

9 (B) who:

10 (i) is a relative of or a person who has had a close personal
11 relationship with the individual described under clause (A);
12 and

13 (ii) is designated by the individual described under clause
14 (A) as a representative.

15 The term does not include an individual who is accused of
16 committing an act of sexual assault (as defined in
17 IC 5-26.5-1-8) against the individual described under clause
18 (A).

19 (7) "Victim advocate" has the meaning set forth in IC 35-37-6-3.5.

20 (8) "Victim service provider" has the meaning set forth in
21 IC 35-37-6-5.

22 SECTION 4. IC 35-40.5-4-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.133-2020,
23 SECTION 14, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
24 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 2. Before a provider commences a forensic
25 medical examination, or as soon as possible, the provider shall inform
26 the victim of the following:

27 (1) The victim's rights under this article and other relevant law in
28 a document to be developed by the state sexual assault response
29 team, **as established by IC 5-2-6-28.5**, which shall be signed by
30 the victim to confirm receipt, unless the victim has already been
31 provided with the document under IC 35-40.5-5-1.

32 (2) The victim's right to speak with a victim advocate or victim
33 service provider. If a victim advocate or victim service provider
34 is not available, a victim has the right to speak with victims
35 assistance or a social worker.

36 SECTION 5. IC 35-40.5-5-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.133-2020,
37 SECTION 15, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
38 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 1. Before a law enforcement officer commences
39 an interview of a victim, the law enforcement officer shall inform the
40 victim of the following:

41 (1) The victim's rights under this article and other relevant law in
42 a document to be developed by the state sexual assault response



1 team, **as established by IC 5-2-6-28.5**, which shall be signed by
2 the victim to confirm receipt, unless the victim has already been
3 provided with the document under IC 35-40.5-4-2.

4 (2) The victim's right to speak with a victim advocate or victim
5 service provider during the course of the investigation, and that
6 the victim has the right to speak to victims assistance or a social
7 worker if a victim advocate or victim service provider is not
8 available.

9 SECTION 6. IC 35-40.5-7-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.133-2020,
10 SECTION 16, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
11 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 1. (a) Upon initial interaction with a victim, a law
12 enforcement officer or provider shall provide the victim with a
13 document developed by the state sexual assault response team, **as**
14 **established by IC 5-2-6-28.5**, that explains the rights of victims:

- 15 (1) under this article and other relevant law;
16 (2) in a format accessible to persons with visual disabilities; and
17 (3) in English, Spanish, and German.

18 (b) The document described in subsection (a) shall include the
19 following:

- 20 (1) A clear statement that a victim is not required to receive a
21 medical evidentiary or physical examination in order to retain the
22 rights provided under this article or any other relevant law.
23 (2) Information concerning state and federal victim compensation
24 funds for medical and other costs associated with the sexual
25 assault.

