## **SENATE BILL No. 320**

### DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 24-5.

Synopsis: Misleading or inaccurate caller identification. Provides that the attorney general can collect attorney fees and costs in a civil action for a violation of the law prohibiting misleading or inaccurate caller identification. Makes technical changes to the deceptive consumer sales act (act) to: (1) include in the list of acts constituting deceptive acts for purposes of the act, a reference to a violation of the statute concerning misleading or inaccurate caller identification information; and (2) include a reference to the Indiana Code provision that specifies the civil penalty that the attorney general may recover for a knowing or intentional violation of the statute concerning misleading or inaccurate caller identification. Makes the following changes to the statute prohibiting misleading or inaccurate caller identification: (1) Provides that after June 30, 2019, the statute applies to the transmission of information through a caller identification service only with respect to commercial telephone solicitations. (2) Defines "commercial telephone solicitation" as an unsolicited call that is made to a subscriber and with respect to which: (A) neither: (i) the person initiating the call; nor (ii) the employer or person for whom the person initiating the call is acting as an employee, an agent, or a contractor; has had a prior business or personal relationship with the subscriber; and (B) the purpose of the call is to solicit the purchase of goods or services. Specifies that the term does not include calls made in response to a call initiated by a subscriber.

Effective: July 1, 2019.

## Head

January 7, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Judiciary.



#### Introduced

#### First Regular Session of the 121st General Assembly (2019)

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 2018 Regular and Special Session of the General Assembly.

## SENATE BILL No. 320

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning trade regulation.

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

SECTION 1. IC 24-5-0.5-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.170-2017, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 3. (a) A supplier may not commit an unfair, abusive, or deceptive act, omission, or practice in connection with a consumer transaction. Such an act, omission, or practice by a supplier is a violation of this chapter whether it occurs before, during, or after the transaction. An act, omission, or practice prohibited by this section includes both implicit and explicit misrepresentations.

(b) Without limiting the scope of subsection (a), the following acts, and the following representations as to the subject matter of a consumer transaction, made orally, in writing, or by electronic communication, by a supplier, are deceptive acts:

(1) That such subject of a consumer transaction has sponsorship, approval, performance, characteristics, accessories, uses, or benefits it does not have which the supplier knows or should reasonably know it does not have.

17 (2) That such subject of a consumer transaction is of a particular



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1	standard, quality, grade, style, or model, if it is not and if the
2	supplier knows or should reasonably know that it is not.
3	(3) That such subject of a consumer transaction is new or unused,
4	if it is not and if the supplier knows or should reasonably know
5	that it is not.
6	(4) That such subject of a consumer transaction will be supplied
7	to the public in greater quantity than the supplier intends or
8	reasonably expects.
9	(5) That replacement or repair constituting the subject of a
10	consumer transaction is needed, if it is not and if the supplier
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11	knows or should reasonably know that it is not.
	(6) That a specific price advantage exists as to such subject of a
13	consumer transaction, if it does not and if the supplier knows or
14	should reasonably know that it does not.
15	(7) That the supplier has a sponsorship, approval, or affiliation in
16	such consumer transaction the supplier does not have, and which
17	the supplier knows or should reasonably know that the supplier
18	does not have.
19	(8) That such consumer transaction involves or does not involve
20	a warranty, a disclaimer of warranties, or other rights, remedies,
21	or obligations, if the representation is false and if the supplier
22	knows or should reasonably know that the representation is false.
23	(9) That the consumer will receive a rebate, discount, or other
24	benefit as an inducement for entering into a sale or lease in return
25	for giving the supplier the names of prospective consumers or
26	otherwise helping the supplier to enter into other consumer
27	transactions, if earning the benefit, rebate, or discount is
28	contingent upon the occurrence of an event subsequent to the time
29	the consumer agrees to the purchase or lease.
30	(10) That the supplier is able to deliver or complete the subject of
31	the consumer transaction within a stated period of time, when the
32	supplier knows or should reasonably know the supplier could not.
33	If no time period has been stated by the supplier, there is a
34	presumption that the supplier has represented that the supplier
35	will deliver or complete the subject of the consumer transaction
36	within a reasonable time, according to the course of dealing or the
37	usage of the trade.
38	(11) That the consumer will be able to purchase the subject of the
39	consumer transaction as advertised by the supplier, if the supplier
40	does not intend to sell it.
41	(12) That the replacement or repair constituting the subject of a
42	consumer transaction can be made by the supplier for the estimate
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1	the supplier gives a customer for the replacement or repair, if the
2	specified work is completed and:
3	(A) the cost exceeds the estimate by an amount equal to or
4	greater than ten percent (10%) of the estimate;
5	(B) the supplier did not obtain written permission from the
6	customer to authorize the supplier to complete the work even
7	if the cost would exceed the amounts specified in clause (A);
8	(C) the total cost for services and parts for a single transaction
9	is more than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750); and
10	(D) the supplier knew or reasonably should have known that
11	the cost would exceed the estimate in the amounts specified in
12	clause (A).
12	(13) That the replacement or repair constituting the subject of a
13	consumer transaction is needed, and that the supplier disposes of
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15	the part repaired or replaced earlier than seventy-two (72) hours after both:
17	(A) the customer has been notified that the work has been
18	completed; and
19	(B) the part repaired or replaced has been made available for
20	examination upon the request of the customer.
21	(14) Engaging in the replacement or repair of the subject of a
22	consumer transaction if the consumer has not authorized the
23	replacement or repair, and if the supplier knows or should
24	reasonably know that it is not authorized.
25	(15) The act of misrepresenting the geographic location of the
26	supplier by listing an alternate business name or an assumed
27	business name (as described in IC 23-0.5-3-4) in a local telephone
28	directory if:
29	(A) the name misrepresents the supplier's geographic location;
30	(B) the listing fails to identify the locality and state of the
31	supplier's business;
32	(C) calls to the local telephone number are routinely forwarded
33	or otherwise transferred to a supplier's business location that
34	is outside the calling area covered by the local telephone
35	directory; and
36	(D) the supplier's business location is located in a county that
37	is not contiguous to a county in the calling area covered by the
38	local telephone directory.
39	(16) The act of listing an alternate business name or assumed
40	business name (as described in IC 23-0.5-3-4) in a directory
41	assistance data base if:
42	(A) the name misrepresents the supplier's geographic location;



1	(B) calls to the local telephone number are routinely forwarded
2	or otherwise transferred to a supplier's business location that
3	is outside the local calling area; and
4	(C) the supplier's business location is located in a county that
5	is not contiguous to a county in the local calling area.
6	(17) The violation by a supplier of IC 24-3-4 concerning
7	cigarettes for import or export.
8	(18) The act of a supplier in knowingly selling or reselling a
9	product to a consumer if the product has been recalled, whether
10	by the order of a court or a regulatory body, or voluntarily by the
11	manufacturer, distributor, or retailer, unless the product has been
12	repaired or modified to correct the defect that was the subject of
13	the recall.
14	(19) The violation by a supplier of 47 U.S.C. 227, including any
15	rules or regulations issued under 47 U.S.C. 227.
16	(20) The violation by a supplier of the federal Fair Debt
17	Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 1692 et seq.), including any
18	rules or regulations issued under the federal Fair Debt Collection
19	Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 1692 et seq.).
20	(21) A violation of IC 24-5-7 (concerning health spa services), as
21	set forth in IC 24-5-7-17.
22	(22) A violation of IC 24-5-8 (concerning business opportunity
23	transactions), as set forth in IC 24-5-8-20.
24	(23) A violation of IC 24-5-10 (concerning home consumer
25	transactions), as set forth in IC 24-5-10-18.
26	(24) A violation of IC 24-5-11 (concerning real property
27	improvement contracts), as set forth in IC 24-5-11-14.
28	(25) A violation of IC 24-5-12 (concerning telephone
29	solicitations), as set forth in IC 24-5-12-23.
30	(26) A violation of IC 24-5-13.5 (concerning buyback motor
31	vehicles), as set forth in IC 24-5-13.5-14.
32	(27) A violation of IC 24-5-14 (concerning automatic
33	dialing-announcing devices), as set forth in IC 24-5-14-13.
34	(28) A violation of IC 24-5-15 (concerning credit services
35	organizations), as set forth in IC 24-5-15-11.
36	(29) A violation of IC 24-5-16 (concerning unlawful motor
37	vehicle subleasing), as set forth in IC 24-5-16-18.
38	(30) A violation of IC 24-5-17 (concerning environmental
39	marketing claims), as set forth in IC 24-5-17-14.
40	(31) A violation of IC 24-5-19 (concerning deceptive commercial
41	solicitation), as set forth in IC 24-5-19-11.
12	(22) A violation of IC 24.5.21 (concerning programition drug

42 (32) A violation of IC 24-5-21 (concerning prescription drug



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1 discount cards), as set forth in IC 24-5-21-7.	
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- 2 (33) A violation of IC 24-5-23.5-7 (concerning real estate
- 3 appraisals), as set forth in IC 24-5-23.5-9.
- 4 (34) A violation of IC 24-5-26 (concerning identity theft), as set 5 forth in IC 24-5-26-3.
- 6 (35) A violation of IC 24-5.5 (concerning mortgage rescue fraud),
  7 as set forth in IC 24-5.5-6-1.
- 8 (36) A violation of IC 24-8 (concerning promotional gifts and 9 contests), as set forth in IC 24-8-6-3.

10 (37) A violation of IC 21-18.5-6 (concerning representations
11 made by a postsecondary credit bearing proprietary educational
12 institution), as set forth in IC 21-18.5-6-22.5.

# 13 (38) A violation of IC 24-5-14.5 (concerning misleading or 14 inaccurate caller identification information), as set forth in 15 IC 24-5-14.5-12.

(c) Any representations on or within a product or its packaging or
in advertising or promotional materials which would constitute a
deceptive act shall be the deceptive act both of the supplier who places
such representation thereon or therein, or who authored such materials,
and such other suppliers who shall state orally or in writing that such
representation is true if such other supplier shall know or have reason
to know that such representation was false.

(d) If a supplier shows by a preponderance of the evidence that an
act resulted from a bona fide error notwithstanding the maintenance of
procedures reasonably adopted to avoid the error, such act shall not be
deceptive within the meaning of this chapter.

(e) It shall be a defense to any action brought under this chapter that
the representation constituting an alleged deceptive act was one made
in good faith by the supplier without knowledge of its falsity and in
reliance upon the oral or written representations of the manufacturer,
the person from whom the supplier acquired the product, any testing
organization, or any other person provided that the source thereof is
disclosed to the consumer.

(f) For purposes of subsection (b)(12), a supplier that provides estimates before performing repair or replacement work for a customer shall give the customer a written estimate itemizing as closely as possible the price for labor and parts necessary for the specific job before commencing the work.

(g) For purposes of subsection (b)(15) and (b)(16), a telephone company or other provider of a telephone directory or directory assistance service or its officer or agent is immune from liability for publishing the listing of an alternate business name or assumed



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business name of a supplier in its directory or directory assistance data base unless the telephone company or other provider of a telephone directory or directory assistance service is the same person as the supplier who has committed the deceptive act.

(h) For purposes of subsection (b)(18), it is an affirmative defense to any action brought under this chapter that the product has been altered by a person other than the defendant to render the product completely incapable of serving its original purpose.

9 SECTION 2. IC 24-5-0.5-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.65-2014, 10 SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE 11 JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 4. (a) A person relying upon an uncured or 12 incurable deceptive act may bring an action for the damages actually 13 suffered as a consumer as a result of the deceptive act or five hundred 14 dollars (\$500), whichever is greater. The court may increase damages 15 for a willful deceptive act in an amount that does not exceed the greater 16 of: 17

(1) three (3) times the actual damages of the consumer suffering the loss: or

(2) one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

20 Except as provided in subsection (j), the court may award reasonable 21 attorney fees to the party that prevails in an action under this 22 subsection. This subsection does not apply to a consumer transaction 23 in real property, including a claim or action involving a construction 24 defect (as defined in IC 32-27-3-1(5)) brought against a construction 25 professional (as defined in IC 32-27-3-1(4)), except for purchases of time shares and camping club memberships. This subsection does not 26 27 apply with respect to a deceptive act described in section 3(b)(20) of 28 this chapter. This subsection also does not apply to a violation of 29 IC 24-4.7, IC 24-5-12, IC 24-5-14, or IC 24-5-14.5. Actual damages 30 awarded to a person under this section have priority over any civil 31 penalty imposed under this chapter. 32

(b) Any person who is entitled to bring an action under subsection (a) on the person's own behalf against a supplier for damages for a deceptive act may bring a class action against such supplier on behalf 34 of any class of persons of which that person is a member and which has 36 been damaged by such deceptive act, subject to and under the Indiana Rules of Trial Procedure governing class actions, except as herein expressly provided. Except as provided in subsection (j), the court may award reasonable attorney fees to the party that prevails in a class action under this subsection, provided that such fee shall be determined by the amount of time reasonably expended by the attorney and not by the amount of the judgment, although the contingency of the fee may



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1 be considered. Except in the case of an extension of time granted by the 2 attorney general under IC 24-10-2-2(b) in an action subject to IC 24-10, 3 any money or other property recovered in a class action under this 4 subsection which cannot, with due diligence, be restored to consumers 5 within one (1) year after the judgment becomes final shall be returned 6 to the party depositing the same. This subsection does not apply to a 7 consumer transaction in real property, except for purchases of time 8 shares and camping club memberships. This subsection does not apply 9 with respect to a deceptive act described in section 3(b)(20) of this 10 chapter. Actual damages awarded to a class have priority over any civil 11 penalty imposed under this chapter.

(c) The attorney general may bring an action to enjoin a deceptive
act, including a deceptive act described in section 3(b)(20) of this
chapter, notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b). However, the attorney
general may seek to enjoin patterns of incurable deceptive acts with
respect to consumer transactions in real property. In addition, the court
may:

(1) issue an injunction;

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(2) order the supplier to make payment of the money unlawfully
received from the aggrieved consumers to be held in escrow for
distribution to aggrieved consumers;

(3) for a knowing violation against a senior consumer, increase
the amount of restitution ordered under subdivision (2) in any
amount up to three (3) times the amount of damages incurred or
value of property or assets lost;

26 (4) order the supplier to pay to the state the reasonable costs of
27 the attorney general's investigation and prosecution related to the
28 action;

29 (5) provide for the appointment of a receiver; and

30 (6) order the department of state revenue to suspend the supplier's
31 registered retail merchant certificate, subject to the requirements

and prohibitions contained in IC 6-2.5-8-7(i), if the court finds
that a violation of this chapter involved the sale or solicited sale
of a synthetic drug (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-321) or a synthetic
drug lookalike substance (as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-321.5).

(d) In an action under subsection (a), (b), or (c), the court may void or limit the application of contracts or clauses resulting from deceptive acts and order restitution to be paid to aggrieved consumers.

(e) In any action under subsection (a) or (b), upon the filing of the
complaint or on the appearance of any defendant, claimant, or any
other party, or at any later time, the trial court, the supreme court, or the
court of appeals may require the plaintiff, defendant, claimant, or any



other party or parties to give security, or additional security, in such sum as the court shall direct to pay all costs, expenses, and disbursements that shall be awarded against that party or which that party may be directed to pay by any interlocutory order by the final judgment or on appeal.

6 (f) Any person who violates the terms of an injunction issued under 7 subsection (c) shall forfeit and pay to the state a civil penalty of not 8 more than fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) per violation. For the 9 purposes of this section, the court issuing an injunction shall retain 10 jurisdiction, the cause shall be continued, and the attorney general acting in the name of the state may petition for recovery of civil 11 12 penalties. Whenever the court determines that an injunction issued 13 under subsection (c) has been violated, the court shall award 14 reasonable costs to the state.

15 (g) If a court finds any person has knowingly violated section 3 or 16 10 of this chapter, other than section 3(b)(19), or 3(b)(20), or 3(b)(38)17 of this chapter, the attorney general, in an action pursuant to subsection 18 (c), may recover from the person on behalf of the state a civil penalty 19 of a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation.

(h) If a court finds that a person has violated section 3(b)(19) of this chapter, the attorney general, in an action under subsection (c), may recover from the person on behalf of the state a civil penalty as follows: (1) For a knowing or intentional violation, one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500).

(2) For a violation other than a knowing or intentional violation, five hundred dollars (\$500).

A civil penalty recovered under this subsection shall be deposited in the consumer protection division telephone solicitation fund established by IC 24-4.7-3-6 to be used for the administration and 30 enforcement of section 3(b)(19) of this chapter.

(i) A senior consumer relying upon an uncured or incurable deceptive act, including an act related to hypnotism, may bring an action to recover treble damages, if appropriate.

(i) An offer to cure is:

(1) not admissible as evidence in a proceeding initiated under this section unless the offer to cure is delivered by a supplier to the consumer or a representative of the consumer before the supplier files the supplier's initial response to a complaint; and

39 (2) only admissible as evidence in a proceeding initiated under 40 this section to prove that a supplier is not liable for attorney's fees 41 under subsection (k).

42 If the offer to cure is timely delivered by the supplier, the supplier may



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submit the offer to cure as evidence to prove in the proceeding in accordance with the Indiana Rules of Trial Procedure that the supplier made an offer to cure.

(k) A supplier may not be held liable for the attorney's fees and court costs of the consumer that are incurred following the timely delivery of an offer to cure as described in subsection (j) unless the actual damages awarded, not including attorney's fees and costs, exceed the value of the offer to cure.

9 (1) If a court finds that a person has knowingly violated section 10 3(b)(20) of this chapter, the attorney general, in an action under subsection (c), may recover from the person on behalf of the state a 11 civil penalty not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per 12 13 consumer. In determining the amount of the civil penalty in any action 14 by the attorney general under this subsection, the court shall consider, 15 among other relevant factors, the frequency and persistence of noncompliance by the debt collector, the nature of the noncompliance, 16 17 and the extent to which the noncompliance was intentional. A person 18 may not be held liable in any action by the attorney general for a 19 violation of section 3(b)(20) of this chapter if the person shows by a 20 preponderance of evidence that the violation was not intentional and 21 resulted from a bona fide error, notwithstanding the maintenance of 22 procedures reasonably adapted to avoid the error. A person may not be 23 held liable in any action for a violation of this chapter for contacting a 24 person other than the debtor, if the contact is made in compliance with 25 the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

26 (m) If a court finds that a person has knowingly or intentionally 27 violated section 3(b)(38) of this chapter, the attorney general, in an 28 action under subsection (c), may recover from the person on behalf 29 of the state a civil penalty in accordance with IC 24-5-14.5-12(b). 30 As specified in IC 24-5-14.5-12(b), a civil penalty recovered under 31 IC 24-5-14.5-12(b) shall be deposited in the consumer protection 32 division telephone solicitation fund established by IC 24-4.7-3-6 to 33 be used for the administration and enforcement of IC 24-5-14.5. In 34 addition to the recovery of a civil penalty in accordance with 35 IC 24-5-14.5-12(b), the attorney general may also recover 36 reasonable attorney fees and court costs from the person on behalf 37 of the state. Those funds shall also be deposited in the consumer 38 protection division telephone solicitation fund established by 39 IC 24-4.7-3-6.

40 SECTION 3. IC 24-5-14.5-1, AS ADDED BY P.L.151-2013,
41 SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
42 JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 1. (a) This chapter applies to the transmission of



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1	information through a caller identification service with respect to calls
2	made after June 30, 2013, to a subscriber.
3	(b) After June 30, 2019, this chapter applies to the transmission
4	of information through a caller identification service only with
5	respect to commercial telephone solicitations made to a subscriber.
6	SECTION 4. IC 24-5-14.5-3.1 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
7	CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
8	[EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 3.1. (a) As used in this chapter,
9	"commercial telephone solicitation" means any unsolicited call
10	that is made to a subscriber and with respect to which:
11	(1) neither:
12	(A) the person initiating the call; nor
13	(B) the employer or person for whom the person initiating
14	the call is acting as an employee, an agent, or a contractor;
15	has had a prior business or personal relationship with the
16	subscriber; and
17	(2) the purpose of the call is to solicit the purchase or the
18	consideration of the purchase of goods or services by the
19	subscriber.
20	(b) The term does not include calls:
21	(1) made in response to a call initiated by a subscriber; or
22	(2) initiated by:
23	(A) the state or a political subdivision (as defined by
24	IC 36-1-2-13) for exclusively public purposes; or
25	(B) the United States or any of its subdivisions for
26	exclusively public purposes (involving real property in
27	Indiana).
28	SECTION 5. IC 24-5-14.5-9, AS ADDED BY P.L.151-2013,
29	SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
30	JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 9. Except as provided in section 10 of this chapter,
31	a person shall not, in connection with any telecommunications service
32	or interconnected VOIP service used in a commercial telephone
33	solicitation, knowingly and with the intent to defraud or cause harm to
34	another person or to wrongfully obtain anything of value, cause any
35	caller identification service to transmit misleading or inaccurate caller
36	identification information to a subscriber.
37	SECTION 6. IC 24-5-14.5-12, AS ADDED BY P.L.151-2013,
38	SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
39	JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 12. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) or in
40	IC 24-5-0.5, a person who violates this chapter commits a deceptive
41	act that is:
42	(1) actionable by the attorney general under IC 24-5-0.5-4(c); and

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(2) subject to the remedies and penalties set forth in IC 24-5-0.5.
 An action by the attorney general for a violation of this chapter may be
 brought in the circuit or superior court of Marion County.
 (b) If the attorney general brings an action under this section and

5 proves by a preponderance of the evidence that a person has knowingly 6 or intentionally violated section 9 of this chapter, the attorney general 7 may recover from the person on behalf of the state a civil penalty of not 8 more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per violation. A civil penalty recovered under this subsection shall be deposited in the consumer 9 10 protection division telephone solicitation fund established by 11 IC 24-4.7-3-6 to be used for the administration and enforcement of this 12 chapter.

