

Indiana 2026 Legislative Briefing

HB 1001 and HB 1003 — The Assault on Public Safety Continues

In the 2026 regular session, the Indiana General Assembly passed two bills that remove enforceable protections from first responders and the people they protect — and eliminate the independent technical body that has governed Indiana’s fire and building safety codes for nearly 40 years.

Indiana HB 1003-2026 abolishes the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission — Indiana’s independent, bipartisan code body. All I-Codes, NFPA Codes and Standards (including the National Electrical Code, Fire Alarm, and Sprinkler Codes) are frozen at editions that are more than a decade old. Any code change now requires action by politicians in the state legislature.

Indiana HB 1001-2026 prohibits code officials from requiring the installation of an **ERCES** (Emergency Responder Communication Enhancement Systems — technology that improves public safety radio coverage inside buildings) in Class 1 structures — any building used by the public, with three or more tenants, or with more than one employee. **AFCI** (Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters) requirements are banned in R-2 occupancies. 48 states require them. For both provisions, existing local ordinances are voided and no local opt-out is permitted. Neither provision received a public hearing. Both were inserted as a Senate floor amendment after testimony closed on an unrelated housing bill.

Both bills were authored or amended by Indiana legislators who simultaneously serve as leaders of the Indiana Builders Association and the National Association of Home Builders.

After June 30, 2026, Indiana firefighters enter Class 1 structures with no enforceable in-building radio coverage requirement. Politicians — not fire professionals — now control the Indiana fire code. Future editions of nationally recognized standards cannot be adopted without a legislative vote.

What you can do to help at FDIC: The national fire service is meeting in Indianapolis the same year Indiana politicians gutted fire safety protections. **Ask questions** during panel discussions and workshops. **Raise this issue** in expo hall conversations and in the hallways. **When presenting**, include this issue where it connects with your topic. **The fire service’s response starts here.**



Get the Full Story: Scan for the complete SBC briefing at saferbuildings.org — including full legislative text, the conflict of interest record, and an analysis of the tactics building associations are using in legislatures across the country.

SCAN ME

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