



Dear ISBA Members:

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Session Status

Week 6 of the 2024 short session of the Indiana General Assembly is finished. It was another busy week at the State House with many committee hearings. The ISBA Bill Tracking List [HERE](#) keeps you “in the know” on the latest action on each of the 42 bills that we are still monitoring. Bills will have to pass out of the second chamber by March 4 in the House and March 5 in the Senate. The short session must conclude by March 14, 2024.

- **House Education Committee Notes from 2/14:**

SB 1 Reading Skills (Author: Senator L. Rogers). This is perhaps the most significant K-12 education bill of the session. It, among other provisions, requires certain schools to offer summer school courses for students who are not reading proficient, or are at risk of not being reading proficient as indicated on the determinant evaluation of reading skills approved by the State Board of Education. It also requires certain summer school courses to be taught by a teacher who is trained in the Science of Reading. Provides that if a student does not achieve a 90% attendance rate in a summer reading course, the student is required to participate in an individual reading plan in the following school year. Requires the Indiana Department of Education to procure a universal screening assessment that meets certain criteria. Requires certain schools to administer the assessment to students in kindergarten through grade 2 who are not on track for reading proficiency by grade 3 as determined by the IDOE. ISBA supports this bill, but requested a delay of the provisions concerning retention until July 1, 2026 (the bill currently indicates effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year). This bill was heard in the House Education Committee on Wednesday and was debated for more than two hours. It passed out of the committee with amendments by a 9-4 vote. It now moves to the floor of the House for second reading next week.

SB 6 Reading Proficiency (Author: Senator J. Raatz). The bill requires the Indiana Department of Education to develop a method starting in the 2024-2025 school year to identify students who are at risk of not being proficient in reading. The department will also be required to develop guidance for schools on how to support students who are at risk of not being proficient in reading. The identified students are grades 4 through 8 who have not passed the state-approved reading skills evaluation and are at risk for not being

proficient in reading determined by Lexile scores on the statewide summative assessment. The bill passed out of the Senate on third reading by a vote of 49-0. The bill was heard in the House Education Committee on Wednesday. ISBA testified in support of this bill and it passed by a 10-0 vote. It now moves to the floor of the House of Representatives for a second reading.

SB 185 Student Use of Wireless Communications

Device (Author: Senator J. Raatz). This bill requires each school corporation and charter school to: (1) adopt and implement a wireless communication device policy that governs student use of a wireless communication device; and (2) publish the policy on the school corporation's or charter school's website. Exceptions are included to the restriction established in SB 185. ISBA testified in support of SB 185. It passed out of committee unanimously by a 10-0.

- **Senate Education and Career Development Committee**
Notes from 2/14:

HB 1104 School Safety (Author: Rep. M. Davis; Sponsor: Sen. S. Deery) The bill requires school corporations to include protocols for armed intruder drills in their safety plans and restricts armed intruder drills that include sensory components (defined as including simulations of gunfire or gunshot wounds, the use of a prop firearm, the use of a pellet gun, or participation in the drill by police with drawn firearms) from requiring student participation or taking place during regular school hours when students are present. The bill also allows school corporations with school resource officers to participate in the 1977 pension fund established for police officers and firefighters. The bill was heard in the Committee and ISBA testified in support of the bill. The bill passed out of the Committee by 11-0 and recommitted to

the Senate Appropriations Committee.

HB 1380 Various Education Matters (Author: Rep. B. Behning; Sponsor: Sen. J. Raatz) The bill was introduced in the Committee on Wednesday and testimony was taken. The bill was held for a vote next week. ISBA opposes the provisions in the bill that (1) require the Secretary of Education to prepare and submit to the General Assembly a plan to establish pilot programs on the innovative use of school facilities and increasing the transportation of students enrolled in public schools, charter schools, and nonpublic schools to learning opportunities; (2) eliminate the authority of a transferee school corporation to charge transfer tuition; (3) shift the burden of proof in certain special education due process hearings to the school corporation; (4) prohibit a school corporation from requiring parents to enter into a resolution agreement that contains a nondisclosure, nondisparagement, or confidentiality clause; and, 5) create charter school corporations as a new local education agency without necessary fiscal transparency and accountability measures. ISBA asks members to please call, text, or email your state senator this weekend to oppose HB 1380.

Call-to-Action Reminder on HB 1376

In addition to communicating with your state senator this weekend to oppose HB 1380, please also continue to communicate with them to oppose HB 1376!

HB 1376 School Controlled Project Referendum (Author: Rep. B. Behning). ISBA has sent you multiple C2As on this bill, including another one this morning, that proposed to restrict controlled project referenda to November general elections only. This measure will greatly delay facility management planning and project commencement, while escalating cost of supplies, materials, and

services as school corporations are forced to compete for services at the same time and in the delayed two-year window. This bill is quite problematic and it is essential that you lend your voice in opposition to the bill.

Contact Your Area Legislators During Session

Please communicate with your area legislators to support ISBA's advocacy position on any of these bills that are compelling to you. Find your legislators and contact information [HERE](#).

Thank you for your participation in the ISBA Legislative Action Network. Let's stand united to support sound K-12 education policy in Indiana!

Sincerely,



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