



Dear ISBA Members:

There is light flickering at the end of the proverbial tunnel signifying that the end of the 2023 legislation session is in sight. With the 11th week of session now complete, there are just five weeks to go. There is increasing speculation, too, that the session will end 3-5 days early. That would give us about 30 days to adjournment sine die!

Key Bill Activity for Week #11

As anticipated, bill activity really picked up this week. Several bills were considered in committees this week that ISBA has been tracking. The following is a summary of seven bills that were voted out of a committee.

House Education Committee:

SB 321 Student Health Matters (Author: Senator Zay) was amended in the House Education Committee on Wednesday. The **amendment** to the bill stripped the Senate-passed version of the bill and inserted language regarding school-based health centers. The new version of the bill allows a school corporation to contract with a health care provider, health system, or community partner to establish a school-based health center (center) and sets forth requirements to establish a center. The bill now provides that,

notwithstanding state or federal law, a school may not conduct a physical or mental assessment or treatment of a student unless the physical or mental assessment or treatment is related to an illness or accident that occurred during school hours or on or near school property. ISBA thanks Chairman Behning and Representative Teshka for their work to clean up what was a problematic, unnecessary bill. ISBA welcomes feedback from school officials about the new language in this bill and will share any concerns about the bill with the House bill sponsors.

SB 342 Teacher Hiring (Senator Freeman) was amended in the House Education Committee on Wednesday. The amended bill will prohibit a school corporation from hiring an applicant who is likely to have direct, ongoing contact with students if the applicant has been convicted of such crimes as murder, aggravated battery, neglect of a dependent, and an offense relating to material or a performance that is harmful to minors. After June 30, 2023, a school corporation may hire an applicant who has been convicted of such crimes as operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated, battery, public indecency, and contributing to the delinquency of a minor, but only if the school board approves of the employment under a separate agenda item. The bill also imposes hiring restrictions of individuals who are required to wear an ankle monitor or who entered into a settlement agreement with a previous employer for misconduct related to the health, safety, or well-being of a student. The bill passed out of the Committee unanimously and is now eligible for second reading on the floor of the House.

House Elections and Apportionment Committee:

SB 177 School Board Candidate Filing (Author: Senator Koch) is a bill that changes the filing period for candidates for school board offices. The new filing period will begin the first day voter registration begins following the primary and ends 30 days from when the filing period opens. The bill was amended on Wednesday in the House Elections and Apportionment Committee with a minor amendment concerning a deadline to rescind intentions to be a write-in candidate. ISBA supports the bill. It will give voters more time to learn about school board candidates, and time for candidates to campaign while lessening the need to move to partisan elections.

House Local Government Committee:

[HB 1167](#) Live Streaming and Archiving Meetings (Representative Smaltz) was heard in the Senate Local Government Committee on Thursday. An **amendment** was adopted to change the effective date of the bill from July 1, 2023, to July 1, 2025. (The new version of the bill will be available early next week.) Thus, the amended bill will require school boards with elected members to live stream their meetings and maintain recordings of the live transmissions of their meetings for 90 days after the date of the meeting, starting July 1, 2025. The bill passed out of the Committee by an 8-2 vote and is now eligible for second reading on the floor of the Senate.

Senate Education & Career Development Committee:

[HB 1447](#) Education Matters (Author: Representative Schaibley) was amended in Senate Education and Career Development on Wednesday. The amended bill focuses on surveys administered by third-party vendors and requires schools to inform parents of the analysis, evaluation, or survey being administered and to obtain written parental consent to administer the survey. The bill passed out of the Committee by a vote of 9-4 and is now eligible for second reading on the floor of the Senate.

[HB 1591](#) Education Matters (Author: Representative Behning). This lengthy "Education Matters" bill was heard in the Senate Education & Career Development Committee on Wednesday. An **amendment** was adopted to modify several provisions of the bill. A few of the key provisions of the bill include the following requirements: (1) each public school to provide information to the department concerning certain physical injuries to employees; and (2) the department to report the information on the department's website. The current version of the bill also requires information regarding certain possible criminal activity, concluded personnel matter investigations, and matters involving legal expenses to be provided to the governing body of a school corporation. Provides that at-risk students who are receiving certain educational services are not included in a public school's four-year graduation rate and are included in an eligible school's graduation rate under certain conditions. Amends the definition of "teacher" regarding certain teacher compensation provisions and requires a school corporation to expend at least 62% of the school corporation's tuition support on teacher compensation.

The bill passed out of committee as amended by an 11-2 vote. It has been reassigned to the Senate Appropriations Committee for further consideration.

HB 1608 Human Sexuality Instruction (Author: Representative Davis) was heard in Senate Education and Career Development on Wednesday. An **amendment** to the bill was adopted to (1) prohibit instruction in human sexuality in Prekindergarten through 3rd grade, (2) require parental consent if any student requests to change the student's name, pronoun, or word to identify the student, and (3) prohibit a school from disciplining a teacher who uses only the student's legal name because of religious convictions. The bill passed out of the Committee by a vote of 9-4 and is now eligible for second reading on the floor of the Senate. The new version of the bill will be available online early next week.

Bill Tracking List

Check out the always new ISBA Bill Tracking List [HERE](#). As the action happens on any bill on the Tracking List, it is updated in real-time.

Thank you for reading the ISBA Weekly Legislative Update and your efforts and contributions to engage in the ISBA Legislative Action Network!

Sincerely,



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