



Dear ISBA Members:

Here is the Week #5 ISBA Legislative Update to provide you with essential information on the latest developments of the 2023 session of the Indiana General Assembly. This is a comprehensive update, so skip ahead to issues of interest to you.

Key Bill Activity for Week #5

Another hectic week in the State House halls! Partisan school board elections legislation continues to be a hot topic (see HB 1428 summary below) and public testimony, including from ISBA, occurred yesterday on Governor Holcomb's state budget proposal in the House Ways & Means Committee. This update includes a summary of 10 bills that were acted upon in the House or Senate.

House Ways & Means Committee (2/8 and 2/9)

As mentioned, hours of public testimony was offered on the introduced version of [HB 1001](#), Governor Eric Holcomb's version of the state biennial budget. ISBA testified in support of the Governor's request for a 6% tuition support increase in Fiscal Year 24, but asked for a higher percentage increase in tuition support of 4% in Fiscal Year 2025, rather than the 2% requested by the governor. This funding will ensure school corporations reach the governor's goal of \$60,000 average pay for teachers and provided school corporations the needed financial resources to offset the spike in inflation. ISBA also testified in support of an increase from \$19 million/year to \$30 million/year in the Indiana Secured

Schools Safety Grant, inclusion of flexibility to use Teacher Appreciation Grant funds for \$1,000 teacher mentor stipends to support new teachers, creation of a Student Support Services Grant with a \$30 million appropriation (to assist in hiring counselors, therapists, social workers, school psychologist, career coaches), expanded family income eligibility for the On My Way Pre-Kindergarten program, and offered support for the auto-enrollment in the 21st Century Scholars Program for eligible students. Other K-12 education associations testified in support of funding for ELL and special needs students and ISBA also supports these funding requests. ISBA thanks **David Finkel**, school board member from Shelbyville Central School Corporation, for his presence to testify on the importance of student support services and to support ISBA's call to create a dedicated grant program for this need. Both the committee chairman, Representative Thompson, and Speaker Huston have publicly stated that K-12 education will receive "record funding" in the House Republican budget to be announced next week.

[HB 1167](#) **Live Streaming and Archiving Meetings** (Author: Representative Smaltz) was amended in the House Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday and passed unanimously. The bill is now eligible for second reading on the House floor. The amended bill requires governing bodies, including school boards, to live stream meetings or record meetings if the board does not have Internet capability and retain the live transmissions or the recordings for at least 90 days after the date of the meeting. The public agency must make the live transmission or recording available for public inspection and copying or downloading for at least 90 days. After 90 days, the public agency may destroy the transmission or recording.

The House Ways & Means Committee also passed yesterday a 68-page amendment to House Bill 1499 regarding property tax control measures. ISBA is analyzing the impact of this amended bill on school corporations and will feature an update about this bill in the Week #6 Legislative Update.

House Elections Committee (2/8)

[HB 1428](#) **School Board Elections** (Author: Representative Prescott) was amended in committee on Wednesday and the bill provides that a candidate for a school board office may not be an employee or agent of that school corporation. Provides that a school board may adopt a resolution to provide that instead of being nominated and elected on a nonpartisan basis, the members of the school board can be: (1) nominated and elected on a partisan basis as all other candidates are nominated and elected; or (2) nominated as school board

candidates are currently nominated but elected with the candidate's partisan affiliation, if any, stated on the general election ballot. Provides that the voters of a school corporation can make the same changes to the election of the school board members as a school board adopted resolution through a petition and referendum process. Makes conforming changes. More than three hours of testimony occurred in committee on this bill. ISBA thanks the following school board members for their testimony in opposition to HB 1428: **Linda Singer**, Western School Corporation; **Derek Morgan**, Spencer-Owen Community Schools; **Michael Nance**, MSD of Wayne Township; **Nannett Polk**, New Castle Community School Corporation; **Kathryn Ellspermann**, Twin Lakes School Corporation; as well as **Dennis Hearne**, former school board member at Shelbyville Central School Corporation, for their testimony in opposition the bill and aligned with the ISBA position as established by Delegate Assembly on October 10, 2022. Three newly elected school board members also testified in support of this legislation. It passed out of committee with the amendment by a party-line 6-4 vote (Republicans voting “aye”). The bill now moves to the floor of the House of Representatives and will be eligible for a second reading on Monday.

House Education Committee (2/8)

HB 1635 Various Education Matters (Author: Representative Behning) the bill amends the graduation rate calculation by capping the percent of graduation waivers that may be included in the calculation. The bill requires every school corporation to publish its graduation rate for each high school on its website. The bill also requires the State Board of Education to require a student who elects to participate in the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery as a graduation pathway to enlist in the military as a condition of meeting the pathway requirements. The bill requires the State Board to assign a “null” or “no letter grade” for the 2022-2023 school year. The bill passed out of the Committee by a 8-3 vote and is eligible for second reading on the floor of the House.

Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee (2/8)

SB 321 Student Health Matters (Author: Senator Zay) was amended in committee to strip provisions on school-based health centers from the introduced bill. The amended bill requires the Department of Health to develop and post on its website first aid guidelines for school emergencies for use by schools. The guidelines must include information on several emergencies, such as administering emergency assistance before emergency medical personnel arrive, first aid procedures in cases of bleeding, chest pain, shock,

concussions, heat emergencies, seizures, and poisoning, emergency care procedures in life-threatening medical situations, and parent notification guidelines. The amended bill also removes existing law that requires school corporations to include immunization information in the official high school transcript of a student. The bill passed out of the committee by a 9-0 vote and is now eligible for second reading on the floor of the Senate.

Senate Education & Career Development Committee (2/8)

SB 443 Various Education Matters (Author: Senator Rogers) was amended in committee with three amendments to the teacher salary requirements. The first amendment delays for one year the language in the introduced bill requiring school corporations to pay each full-time teacher a minimum of \$50,000. That requirement will take effect in the 2024-2025 school year. The second amendment increases the percentage of state tuition support that must be expended for teacher compensation from 60% to 62%. This requirement will also take effect in the 2024-2025 school year. The third amendment adds school social workers to the definition of teacher for purposes of calculating the 62% requirement. The amended bill passed by a vote of 11-1 and will be recommitted to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 100 Education Matters (Author: Senator Raatz) is a bill, among other provisions, that requires the State Board of Education to establish new high school diploma requirements to be implemented no later than the 2024-2025 school year and apply to the cohort of students expected to graduate in the 2027-2028 school year and thereafter. A vote on the bill will likely be scheduled for next week.

SB 167 FAFSA (Senator Leising) was heard in the Senate Education and Career Development Committee on Wednesday. The bill requires each senior student to complete the FAFSA unless the parent of the student submits a signed waiver certifying that the student understands what FAFSA is and declines to complete it or the principal or school counselor waives the requirement due to extenuating circumstances. A vote on the bill will likely take place next week. Most of the testimony was in support of the bill, however, the principals' association and the school counselors' association testified in opposition to the bill. The school counselors' association commented that the current counselor to student ratio in Indiana is 694/1 and expressed concern that this mandate would take away from the direct student services they provide.

[SB 391](#) **Closure of School Buildings** (Author: Senator Rogers) was heard in the Senate Education and Career Development Committee on Wednesday. The bill requires school boards to close underutilized school buildings and make those buildings available to charter schools and post-secondary educational institutions for lease or purchase for \$1. The bill moves the enforcement provisions of the \$1 law from the Office of the Attorney General to the Department of Education. The bill requires the Department to withhold 3% of a school corporation's state tuition support if a school corporation intentionally and without good cause fails to close an underutilized building or otherwise sells, leases, demolishes, or disposes of a closed school building in violation of the \$1 law. ISBA, along with other education associations, testified against the bill. A vote on the bill will likely occur next week.

[SB 435](#) **Twenty-first Century Scholars Program** (Author: Senator Melton) was heard in the Senate Education and Career Development Committee on Wednesday. Similar to HB 1149, this bill provides for automatic enrollment of eligible students in the 21st Century Scholars Program. All testimony was in support of the bill. A vote will likely occur next week.

Bill Tracking List

ISBA makes available to members an automated bill tracking list to assist you in following the status and progress of all the bills that the Association will be monitoring. ISBA presently is tracking 223 bills that address local or school governance matters, taxation, children, or K-12 education policy. Check the ISBA Bill Tracking List [HERE](#).

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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