



ISBA WEEK 1 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dear ISBA Members:

With the start of the First Regular Session of the 124th Indiana General Assembly commencing on Wednesday, ISBA is ready to help prepare you to actively engage in our member-focused Legislative Action Network (LAN) with important information here and to follow every Friday during the approximately 16-week session. This a “long session” that must conclude by April 29. The core duty of the legislature is to adopt a two-year (biennial) state budget. The ISBA Weekly Legislative Update will highlight bill actions and emerging developments of importance to us. We hope you find these updates timely and informative.

ISBA “Top 3 Things to Know” Weekly Video Update

For a second consecutive year, ISBA is providing you with a video series titled “Top 3 Things to Know Video Update” to supplement the many resources that will continue as a part of the Association’s

Legislative Action Network. We strive to make sure our members are the best-informed membership of any organization in the state about legislative matters. The video message will range from 3-5 minutes to spotlight the most important “three things” of each week.

Click [HERE](#) to watch the Week 1 video update.

Legislative Priorities Emerging

The legislative priorities of the four caucuses have begun to emerge. Both the Senate Republican Caucus and the House Democrat Caucus announced their separate legislative priorities on Wednesday.

- **Senate Republican Caucus 2025 Agenda** Their session agenda is focused on “property tax reform, lowering health care costs, and good-government measures.” In announcing this agenda, Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray (R-Martinsville) stated, "Though Indiana has one of the lowest property tax burdens in the country, we know Hoosiers are feeling the sting of rising property tax bills. We stand ready to collaborate with Governor-elect Braun and our counterparts in the House to pass meaningful property tax reform. In addition, we will be pursuing several good-government measures to ensure Hoosier taxpayer dollars are being invested responsibly and with transparency and are again this year pursuing policies to lower health care costs." The full Senate Republican Caucus 2025 Agenda is available [HERE](#).
- **House Democrat Caucus 2025 Agenda** Their session agenda centers on the theme “Focus on the Basics,” as outlined by House Democratic Leader Phil GiaQuinta (D-Fort Wayne). The agenda prioritizes three key areas: lowering the cost of living, funding public education, and supporting public safety and veterans. Rep. GiaQuinta emphasized initiatives to support working Hoosiers, including cutting childcare costs, increasing homeownership, and providing property tax relief. Additional goals include fully

funding public schools, enhancing healthcare benefits for first responders, and reinstating free in-state tuition for children of disabled veterans. The full House Democrat Caucus 2025 Agenda is available [HERE](#).

ISBA will spotlight in the Week 2 Legislative Update the priorities of the House Republican and Senate Democrat Caucuses after they are released.

ISBA Bill Tracking List

ISBA makes available to members an automated bill tracking list to assist you in monitoring the status and progress of all the bills that the Association is tracking. As of today, nearly 600 bills have been released publicly. By the bill filing deadline and release of all introduced bills, that number will grow to approximately 1,100. During a budget session ISBA typically tracks 175-225 bills that are relevant to K-12 education policy, school governance, or child-related legislation. Whenever an action occurs on any bill on the list, it will be captured and updated in real time. You can view the ISBA Bill Tracking List [HERE](#).

Bills to Move to Partisan School Board Elections Are Back!

At the least two bills will be filed to move school board races to partisan elections:

[HB 1230](#) **School Board Elections** (Author: Rep. J.D. Prescott; Co-Authors: Reps. Doug Miller, Robert Heaton, and Michelle Davis). This bill provides that for school board offices, each candidate's affiliation with a political party or status as an independent candidate must be stated on the ballot. **ISBA opposes** any shift to partisan school board elections and has developed these [Talking Points](#) for your use in advocating against the bill. Please reach out now with your state representative to urge them to vote “NO” on HB 1230. (A senate bill authored by Senator Gary Byrne is forthcoming but has not yet been

released with a bill number.)

Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 143 Parental Rights (Author: Senator Liz Brown) - The Senate Judiciary Committee met on Wednesday and heard testimony on this bill. The bill provides that a governmental entity may not substantially burden a parent's fundamental right to direct the upbringing, religious instruction, education, or health care of a child unless the burden is in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest and is the least restrictive means of furthering the governmental interest. Provisions in the bill include prohibiting a governmental entity from: (1) advising, directing, or coercing a child to withhold certain information from the child's parent; or (2) denying a child's parent access to certain information. The bill allows a parent to bring an action against a governmental entity for violations of the statute and provides for certain relief. The Committee will vote on the bill next week. ISBA did not testify on the bill.

Legislative Liaison Board Report Template

ISBA encourages all school boards to designate a legislative liaison to help coordinate monitoring and reporting to your school community on the resources and information shared via the LAN. We ask that your board include a legislative update report on its monthly meeting agenda through April. To help your legislative liaison craft their report, we are providing a School Board Session Update Report PDF template that can be customized with the fillable boxes found in the report outline. The template is available for use [HERE](#).

7th Annual ISBA State House Day – PLEASE RSVP Today!

Nothing is more powerful than ISBA members in action via grassroots advocacy empowered by the ISBA Legislative Action Network! The 7th Annual State House Day will be held on February 18, 2025, at the

Indianapolis Downtown Hyatt Regency. This event is a prime opportunity for you to have firsthand engagement with your area legislators. In addition to hearing from caucus leaders and education committee leaders during two excellent panel discussions, and a staff bill briefing, we encourage you to invite your area legislators to join you for conversation during the noon luncheon portion of the event. As a reminder, we encourage your school board president and board legislative liaison, or some combination of two board member representatives of your board, to attend the complimentary event and receive a \$35 stipend for parking and mileage. Please RSVP to attend the event [HERE](#).

Contact Your Area Legislators During Session

To find your legislators visit [HERE](#). Once you know who your senator and representative are, you can use a legislative directory maintained by ISBA and available [HERE](#) to begin advocating.

Thank you for your participation in the ISBA Legislative Action Network. Let's stand united in 2025 to put children first and support sound K-12 education policy in Indiana!

Sincerely,

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