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ISBA WEEK 10 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dear ISBA Members:

Here is your Week 10 Legislative Update with the essential information you need to know about the status of the budget session of the Indiana General Assembly. Bills must pass out of the second chamber by the third reading deadline on April 15, 2025, to remain active this session. Still six and one-half weeks to go – please keep advocating for kids!

ISBA Bill Tracking List

The Bill Tracking List now only includes 69 bills, down from the 184 bills that ISBA has been tracking through the first half of the bill process. The updated ISBA Tracking List is available [HERE](#).

ISBA “Top 3 Things to Know” Weekly Video Update

Click [HERE](#) to watch the Week 10 video update.

Key Legislation on the Docket This Week:

[SB 146](#) **Teacher Compensation** (Author: Sen. Linda Rogers; Sponsor: Rep. Jake Teshka) – Requires the Department of Education to submit a report to the Indiana General Assembly before November 1, 2025, that provides an analysis of the

feasibility and cost of increasing school corporation employee health plan options. Provides 20 day of paid parental leave for a full-time teacher employed by a school corporation and 10 days of paid leave for a part-time teacher employed by a school corporation upon: (1) the birth of the teacher's child; (2) the birth of a child to the teacher's spouse; (3) the placement of a child for adoption with the teacher; or (4) the stillbirth of the teacher's child. Creates the Indiana Teacher Recruitment Program and Fund. Beginning June 30, 2025: (1) increases the minimum salary for a teacher employed by a school corporation to \$45,000 (current law requires \$40,000); and (2) requires a school corporation to expend an amount for teacher compensation that is not less than 65% of state tuition support (current law requires 62%). ISBA changed its position on this bill from “Support” in testimony in the Senate Education and Career Development Committee in January, to “Neutral with Concerns” in the House Education Committee on Wednesday. ISBA testified that “They’re (teacher pay goals) the right goals. We need to accelerate past them. But it all needs to work together with the fiscal policy of the state of Indiana (in HB 1001) to make the goals attainable in the accelerated timeline (of beginning June 30, 2025). Without the resources, it going to take a while to get there.” After public testimony, the bill was held for potential amendments and vote at a future meeting of the committee.

SB 287 School Board Matters (Author: Sen. Gary Byrne; Sponsor: Rep. J.D. Prescott) – The House Elections & Apportionment Committee on Wednesday resumed deliberation on SB 287 and amended the bill to eliminate the addition of a primary election process for school board candidates. The bill, as amended, now requires a petition of nomination for a school board office to state one of the following: (1) The candidate's political party affiliation; (2) if the candidate does not identify with a political party, that the candidate is an independent candidate; or (3) that the candidate elects to be listed on the ballot as nonpartisan. Specifies that unless a candidate who states a political party affiliation is challenged, the candidate's statement must be indicated on the ballot. Specifies that a straight party vote does not count for any candidate for a school board office. Requires a school board vacancy to be filled by: (1) a caucus if the vacating member stated an affiliation with a major political party; and (2) the remaining members of the governing body if the vacating member did not state an affiliation with a major political party. This bill passed out of committee by an 8-5 vote and moves to the floor of the House of Representatives for second and third readings. ISBA is working to make the candidate’s declaration of party affiliation a “may” provision.

HB 1285 Education Matters (Author: Rep. Becky Cash; Sponsor: Sen. Buchanan) – The Senate Education and Career Development Committee heard testimony on this bill, which requires school corporations to ensure that at least one employee in each

school building that is used for classroom instruction has received nonviolent crisis intervention training and is available for responding to instances where de-escalation is needed and when there is use of restraint, seclusion, or time-out. This requirement will go into effect on January 1, 2026. The bill also prohibits school boards from adopting policies that would prevent a parent from recording a meeting concerning a student's individualized education program and requires school officials to give the parent of a student who has died, transferred, dropped out, or otherwise withdrawn from school the opportunity to collect the student's property. ISBA testified in support of the bill. The Committee will vote on the bill next week.

[HB 1403](#) Juvenile Justice Oversight (Author: Rep. Wendy McNamara; Sponsor: Sen. Michael Crider) – HB 1403 was heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday. It modifies the duties of the statewide juvenile justice oversight body established by the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana. The bill requires the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute to consider the oversight body's recommendations when adopting a funding formula for various juvenile justice grant programs, including the juvenile diversion grant program, juvenile community alternatives grant program, and juvenile behavioral health competitive grant program. This bill also mandates collaborative service planning for grant recipients. Additionally, HB 1403 strengthens the capacity to manage grants, requires an annual report on the juvenile behavioral health competitive grant program, and removes language to the pilot program. An amendment was heard which refines the duties of the oversight body and was adopted before the bill passed out of committee with a 10-0 vote and was sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for further consideration.

[HB 1498](#) School Accountability (Author: Rep. Bob Behning; Sponsor: Sen. Spencer Deery) – This bill requires the State Board of Education to establish a new accountability model by December 31, 2025, that is based on data in the GPS dashboard, includes proficiency rates from IREAD-3 and ILEARN, and prioritizes the attainment of diploma seals, among other factors. The bill specifies that the State Board must assign “null” or “no letter grades” for the 2024-2025 school year but thereafter use letter grades to designate school performance under as measured in the new model. ISBA and several other education organizations testified in support of the bill. The Senate Education and Career Development Committee held the bill for a vote at a later date.

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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