



Dear ISBA Members:

***Here is your Week #4 ISBA Legislative Update. The first month of the 2020 short session is complete!*** As mentioned last week, bills had to pass out of the assigned committee no later than Tuesday in the House of Representatives, and yesterday in the Senate, to stay alive in the bill process. The third reading deadlines for bills in the house of origin are next week on Monday in the House and Tuesday in the Senate. As of Thursday evening, of the 77 House bills on the ISBA Tracking List, 56 of the bills are now dead -- leaving 21 to move to the Senate for further action. I will have a full scorecard of the 163 bills on the ISBA Tracking List in the Week #5 report next week. You can view the current tracking list ([HERE](#)).

### **Key Bill Activity This Week**

On Tuesday, the House of Representatives passed House Bill 1003, an education deregulation or “school flexibility” bill, by a 98-0 third reading vote. **HB 1003, Education Matters** (authored by Representative Jack Jordan), intends to lessen annual training requirements for teacher licensure or license renewal and to provide a process through the State Board of Education permitting schools to seek waivers of state statues and regulations. ISBA

supports this bill.

Another helpful bill to pass by a 94-0 vote in the House yesterday is **HB 1204**, also titled **Education Matters** (authored by Representative Bob Cherry). This bill proposes, in part, to require that the February count of a school corporation's average daily membership (ADM) must be increased by the number of students who, during the students' expected graduation year: (1) were enrolled in the school corporation on the September ADM count day; (2) completed graduation requirements before the February ADM count day; and (3) were not enrolled in the school corporation on the February ADM count day. In simple terms, this provision would ensure school corporations are not penalized for funding purposes for seniors who graduate mid-year. The bill also removes the cap on the amount of Career and Technical Education enrollment grants that may be distributed per state fiscal year. ISBA supports this bill.

#### **Other Bills in Committee**

**SB 263, Specialized Weapons Training for School Employees and Staff Members** (authored by Senators Holdman, Garten, and Crane). This bill proposes that, before an employee or any other staff member of a school corporation, charter school, or nonpublic school, may carry a firearm in or on school property as authorized by a school board of the school corporation, charter school, or nonpublic school, the employee or staff member shall do the following: (1) Successfully complete certain specialized weapons training. (2) Provide proof to the school board that the employee or other staff member has successfully completed the specialized weapons training. (3) Complete the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory 2 (MMPI-II) and provide the results from the inventory to the school board of the school corporation, charter school, or nonpublic school. Establishes requirements for specialized weapons training.

ISBA supported SB 263 in the Senate Education & Career Development Committee on Wednesday, as this bill maintains current law that enables the governing body to decide whether to adopt a policy to allow school personnel

(other than SRO's or police officers) to possess a firearm on school property for school safety purposes, as well as to select and authorize the personnel to do so. What the bill requires is that anyone authorized by the governing body to possess or carry a firearm must receive training and meet certain criteria before doing so. We thank Senator Holdman and Senator Raatz for bringing amendment #3 forward, in part at ISBA's request, to address our concerns with the introduced version of the bill. This amendment was adopted by the Committee prior to the bill being voted out of committee by a 10-0 vote.

[SB 398](#), **Various Education Matters** (authored by Senator Jeff Raatz). The bill was amended and passed out of the Senate Education and Career Development Committee by a vote of 9-0 on Wednesday. The amended bill adds several new provisions, including (1) requiring school corporations to allow patriotic youth organizations to speak with students about their organizations at least once a year and requiring school corporations to allow the organizations to use school property to provide services to students; (2) requiring the Department of Education to report to the General Assembly the number of students who took the naturalization exam and the passage rate and to post the information on its website; (3) establishing a high school equivalency pilot program for four specific school corporations; and (4) recommending that an interim study committee consider whether the state should encourage robotics classes and clubs for students in kindergarten through grade 12. ISBA testified in opposition to this bill when heard initially in the committee last week. We will evaluate the revised bill to determine our current position when this bill moves to the House of Representatives.

[SB 425](#), **Disannexation** (authored by Senator Mike Bohacek). This bill establishes a pilot program that creates a process that will allow the elected officials of Greene Township, St. Joseph County, to initiate a plan to disannex from the South Bend Community School Corporation and annex to another existing school corporation. Any disannexation that occurs pursuant to this statutory process will remain in effect at the expiration of the two-year pilot program. The bill passed out of the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee by

a vote of 11-0. While the bill impacts just two school corporations in the state, the results of the pilot program could be the impetus for future legislation impacting all school corporations.

We are concerned with the precedent this bill sets that a small group of residents can impact an entire school community with the relinquishing school corporation have no say in the matter whatsoever. ISBA and several other education associations testified against the bill. [Click here](#) for more specific information on our concerns. Please use these talking points to call or email your area Senator by Monday to ask that they vote "NO" on SB 425.

### **ISBA 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual State House Day February 11th**

***WE NEED YOU!*** We are inviting the legislative liaisons, or a representative of all school boards, to attend ISBA's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual State House Day on February 11 at the Indianapolis Downtown Marriott. For more information on this event [CLICK HERE](#). Please help make this a successful day for school boards in Indiana by ensuring that you have a board representative attend. We have nearly 40 legislators registered for the luncheon. We need more school board members to register to demonstrate a show of strength in numbers and unity of message.

I hope you find this information helpful!