



Dear ISBA Members,

*Here is your Week #7 ISBA Legislative Update...Less than three weeks left of the 2020 session. **Stakes are high so please read this update and respond to the call-to-action alerts!***

Session Status

Bills must be voted out of the committee in the second chamber by Thursday to remain eligible for final passage this session. The third reading deadline of bills in the second chamber is March 3, with conference committee activity to follow. The targeted conclusion of the session is March 11.

Enemy #1 House Bill 1222 – CALL-TO-ACTION ALERT!

As was shared earlier in the week, House Bill 1222, a miscellaneous elections law matters bill, was amended in the Senate Elections Committee to impose several restrictions on when school corporations may pose a local public question, i.e., hold a referendum, to only a general election or municipal general election (only if the school corporation proposing the referendum is contained entirely within a municipality). Only 25 school corporations are contained “entirely within a municipality,” **so a vast majority of school**

corporations will be left with only a general election option once every two years. HB 1222, as amended, would eliminate the ability of school corporations to run a referendum in a primary election or a special election. ISBA, IAPSS, IASBO, ISTA, IUSA and IRSRA all **OPPOSE** this bill. Click [HERE](#) for a list of talking points of why we oppose the restrictions on local public questions now included in HB 1222. This language needs removed from HB 1222!

The issue of HB 1222 has a new situation developing today in that Senator Greg Walker, sponsor of HB 1222 in the Senate, has filed an amendment to the bill (Amendment #10). The amendment does add primary elections back into the bill for referendums, but would continue to eliminate special elections and prohibit elections in municipal election years (every 4 years in odd numbered years) unless the entire boundaries of a school corporation are in the municipality boundaries. Again, only 25 school corporations qualify for that designation. So, only those corporations could hold a referendum during municipal elections. The associations do not support this amendment because there continue to be referendum opportunities deleted from current statutes. Our talking points do not change with the introduction of this new amendment.

PLEASE CALL YOUR STATE SENATOR NOW AND ASK THEM TO:

1. **OPPOSE HB 1222 AND DO NOT support** Amendment #10 to be offered by Senator Walker on Monday;
2. **DO SUPPORT** either Amendment #8 (Senator Holdman) or Amendment #2 (Senator Brown). **Support either second reading amendment (#2 or #8) to REMOVE the restrictions on local public questions (referendums) offered by school corporations and to maintain current law protecting local control;**

Ask them, "Why limit a school board's flexibility of bringing forth a referendum

when it is needed in either May or November and giving us the tools to control costs and address school corporation challenges and needs?” Let’s not tie one hand behind the backs of public education, the foundation of our democracy and the key driver of economic development in the state of Indiana. You can find contact information for the state senators [HERE](#). Thank you!

Key Bills Remaining This Session Supported by ISBA

[HB 1204](#) **Education matters** (Rep. 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.

This bill also includes increased oversight of virtual charter schools. It requires, not later than November 1, 2020, the Indiana Department of Education to establish standards concerning the following: (1) The minimum amount of time that a student of a virtual charter school must participate in educational activities provided by the virtual charter school each semester of the school year; (2) Requirements that a student of a virtual charter school participate in the statewide assessment or an alternate assessment, as applicable. Provides that, if a student of a virtual charter school fails, in a semester, to meet the standards, the student must be withdrawn from enrollment in the virtual charter school and may not reenroll or enroll in another virtual charter school. Requires, beginning January 1, 2021, the department to reduce state tuition support distribution to a virtual charter school if students of the virtual charter school fail to meet the standards.

Call-to-Action Alert on HB 1204! HB 1204 is the most important bill to K-12 public education remaining this session we want to get passed. This bill provides school funding dollars totaling approximately \$30 million in support of public education during the current budget biennium AND includes appropriate and necessary regulations of virtual charter schools. **PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL YOUR STATE SENATOR TO ASK THEM TO SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF ALL SECTIONS OF HB 1204 in the Senate Appropriations Committee next week** (note: testimony on this bill was heard in committee this week, but the bill was held for amendment and vote next week).

[House Bill 1002](#), **Teacher Evaluations** (Representatives Cook and McNamara). This bill will eliminate a statutory requirement that state summative assessment scores must be used for teacher evaluations and allows local governing bodies to decide whether these scores should be used in this manner. **Please communicate with your senator to ask for their support for HB 1002.**

Thank you for another impactful week of a strong, unified voice demonstrated by school board members from across the state. Legislators continue to tell me that they are hearing regularly from school board members this session. Thank you for all you are doing to support K-12 public education and local control in our Hoosier state!