



Dear ISBA Members:

Here is your Week #5 ISBA Legislative Update. We are now at the midpoint of the 2020 short session of the Indiana General Assembly. Any bill not passing out of the house of origin by the third reading deadline in each chamber this week is now dead. Only 20 of the 77 House bills related to K-12 education, school governance, or child-related legislation on the ISBA Tracking List will proceed to the Senate for further action. Of the 86 Senate bills on the initial ISBA Tracking List, only 29 will to move to the House for further action. Overall, the list had decreased from 163 bills to 49 bills. You can view the current tracking list [HERE](#).

These bills will need to move out of committee in the second chamber by February 27 to continue on the path to passage. Legislative leaders have targeted March 11 as the last day of session, but with a chance that the session will finish before this date. If you have any concerns about any bill still alive, now is a good time to share your concerns via a letter, email, or call to your area legislators.

[Key Bill Activity This Week](#)

[SB 425](#), **Disannexation** (authored by Senator Mike Bohacek). This bill enables 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 proposed process will remain in effect at the expiration of the two-year program. 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 having no say in the matter whatsoever.

The bill passed out of the Senate on Tuesday by a 30-19 vote. We thank all school board members who contacted their senators to ask for a "NO" vote. If your senator was one of the 19 to vote against the bill please thank them. You can view the third reading roll call [HERE](#).

ISBA, IAPSS, IASBO, IUSA, and IRSRA all collaborated to lobby against this bill. [Click here](#) for more specific information on our concerns. SB 425 moves to the House of Representatives for further deliberation. Please use these talking points to write, call, or email your state representative to now ask them to oppose this legislation.

Other Bills of Interest

Please communicate with your senator to ask for their support for [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.

Finally, [SB 2](#), **School Accountability** (Senator Jeff Raatz) passed on third reading in the House on Monday by a 90-0 and is on Governor Holcomb's desk for signature to make this bill a new law. This is the "hold harmless" bill concerning use of 2019 and 2020 ILEARN scores for state A-F accountability grades for schools and school corporations. The better of scores from the 2018 ISTEP+ test, or the 2019 (and then the 2020) ILEARN test, will be used to

compute the letter grades. We thank Senator Raatz and Representative Devon for carrying this bill through the Senate and House respectively.

I hope you find this information helpful!