



Indiana School Boards Association

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Dear ISBA Members:

The first regular session of the 121st Indiana General Assembly convened yesterday, January 3, 2019. This is a long session, also referred to as the budget session, which must conclude by law on or before April 29, 2019. I will do my best to keep you posted on key developments pertaining to K-12 education bills and school funding matters included in the state budget (House Bill 1001), via a weekly email update that will be distributed to you every Friday during the session.

NOTE to Board Presidents: we are waiting for you to conduct your organization meeting by January 15th and notify ISBA of your officers and new board members. We will be sending separate correspondence out about this soon. Until then, please forward the weekly legislative updates to your new board members. Thank you.

HOT TOPICS

Generally speaking, there will be a handful of hot topics that will consume headlines this session from debates that will occur on such issues as hate crimes legislation, marijuana legalization, gambling expansion, and **school safety**; and, budget matters including funding for the Department of Child Services, Medicaid cost increases, **teacher compensation, and tuition support.**

Speaking of priority issues, the Senate Republican Leadership announced their

caucus priorities yesterday. The full press release can be accessed here:

<https://www.indianasenaterepublicans.com/bray-senate-republicans-announce-legislative-priorities>

Overall, the Senate GOP 2019 agenda addresses:

- Maintaining an “honestly balanced budget”
- Protect vulnerable children
- Support K-12 education
- Improve School Safety
- Advance Workforce Development

BILL FILINGS AND TRACKING

Bills are beginning to be filed and will increase in number up to the January 10th bill filing deadline in both the House and Senate. While there are about 340 bills filed so far, we will likely have more than 1,000 bills introduced this session.

ISBA offers to our members a customized bill tracking list that we subscribe to via Hannah News Services. This tracking list will include all bills relevant to K-12 education, school governance, and other child-related legislation. Key overview information will be provided on each bill (bill number, title, authors, digest, last three bill actions, and overall bill status) that is auto-updated every session day. Click [here](#) to view the first bill tracking list that will significantly grow in volume next week. We will provide you with access to the ISBA bill tracking list in every weekly update and provide direct access to the list via a link found on the ISBA Legislative Services page at: <https://www.isba-ind.org/legislative.html>

SESSION DEADLINES

A few additional key dates to mention during the first half of the bill process include the second and third reading deadline of bills in the chamber of origin as follows:

- **Second reading** deadline on February 21st in the House and on February 25th in the Senate;
- **Third reading** deadline on February 25th in the House and on February 26th in the Senate; bills not passed on third reading by these deadlines will result in the bills being dead for the session.

SENATE BILL 128 ON SCHOOL CALENDAR

I do want to update you on Senator Leising's bill that would prohibit the start of the school year before the fourth Monday of August annually beginning with the 2020-21 school year. The 2019 version of this bill is **Senate Bill 128 and is titled "School Calendar."** The good news is that this bill has been assigned to the Senate Rules and Legislative Procedures Committee, and I've been told by a highly reputable source that the bill will die in this committee without a hearing. If this turns out to be inaccurate and it does get scheduled for hearing, I will send out a call-to-action alert to ramp up our advocacy efforts in opposition to the bill.

I hope to include in the Week #2 Legislative Update bill numbers that align to the ISBA Legislative Priorities ([here](#)).

Sincerely,



Terry Spradlin

Executive Director

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