



**Dear ISBA Members:**

Here is your **Week #14 ISBA Legislative Update**. The countdown is on for the completion of the 2021 budget session—12 calendar days to go! Next week will be a significant week with the second reading deadline of bills on Monday and the third reading deadline on bills Tuesday (for both chambers). If you missed it yesterday, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed HB 1001, the state budget, by a vote of 11-2 (see ISBA summary [HERE](#)). Please see the budget update for guidance on further grassroots advocacy efforts. Once the revenue forecast update is released on Thursday, the final version of the budget will be moved during the last three days of the session. By the way, the Indiana General Assembly may only recess on 4/21, not adjourn sine die, to allow them to come back a time of their choosing, as late as November 15, to address congressional and legislative redistricting.

**ISBA Bill Tracking List**

To view the ISBA Bill Tracking List, click [HERE](#).

## **Key K-12 Education Bill Activity**

*Each of the following bills have critical updates for your information...*

**[SB 54 FAFSA Awards](#)**; Author: Senator Leising; Sponsor: Representative Behning. The current version of SB 54 would require the Department of Education to administer a FAFSA completion incentive award pilot program, beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023. The incentive award would be available to a school corporation that increases its FAFSA completion rate by at least 5%. Senator Leising has filed a dissent on the House amendments to the bill due to its fiscal impact, moving the bill to a conference committee. ISBA is calling on conferees to support the House version of the bill or kill the bill, rather than accepting the Senate version of this legislation.

**[SB 358 School Buildings](#)**; Author: Senator Rogers; Sponsor: Representative Behning. The bill provides that before a governing body may sell, exchange, lease, demolish, hold without operating, or dispose of a school building, the governing body shall: (1) obtain a certification from the attorney general's office; and (2) make the building available for lease or purchase by a charter school or state educational institution. Inclusion of oversight by the state attorney general and the addition of state public college or university having rights to vacant K-12 school buildings are the new provisions of this longstanding \$1 lease/sell clause of current law. The bill also adds a burden for school corporations to maintain and secure vacant school buildings while on the vacant school building list. Lobbyists for higher education refute any ownership of the language adding their institutions to this law. ISBA opposes both the current law and SB 358. Please express your opposition to this bill to your area legislators.

**[HB 1266 Education building and transportation authorities](#)**; Author: Representative Clere; Sponsor: Senator Donato. The bill requires the Department of Education (department) to issue a request for information concerning the possible establishment of educational building authorities and educational transportation authorities that would operate K-12 school buildings, or other educational experience centers, and K-12 transportation, respectively. Provides that the deadline for submission of responses to the request for information may

not be later than September 1, 2021. Requires the department to prepare and submit, not later than October 1, 2021, a report that includes the information regarding the responses to the request for information and any recommendations by the department. Urges the legislative council to assign to an appropriate study committee for the 2021 interim the task of reviewing the report submitted by the department. As was communicated to you earlier this week, this bill has lacked support to pass on a third reading vote. **\*Senator Donato, the bill sponsor, on Thursday moved the bill back to second reading to file additional amendment language to try to earn support for the bill.** Since Monday will be final day for second readings, we will monitor what amendments are offered to the bill to determine if ISBA's position in opposition to the bill will change. ISBA will send out a call-to-action alert if necessary about this bill on Monday afternoon. Stay tuned!

[HB 1514](#) **Various education matters**; Author: Representative Cook. This bill eliminates consequences that have been a part of the state's A-F school accountability system, including state takeover of failing schools. It also provides for a "hold harmless" exemption of the Spring 2021 ILEARN test scores for A-F school accountability grade computations. Furthermore, this bill will require the State Board of Education to create a data dashboard system by July 1, 2024. Finally, the bill requires the IDOE to conduct a COVID-19 learning loss study. ISBA supported HB 1514 throughout the session and thanks Representative Tony Cook for his work on the bill.

### **Grassroots Advocacy at Work**

It's not too late to have your voice heard on the many bills still active in the bill process, but most importantly on HB 1001, which as mentioned in prior updates will be the sole home for the school choice expansion package. Please write, email, or call your area legislators to communicate your thoughts and perspectives on the bills moving and the work that they are doing.

***Nearly 200 school boards have adopted a resolution against the school choice expansion agenda before the legislature – impressive! Thank you!!***

Sincerely,



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