



Indiana School Boards Association

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Dear ISBA Members:

Here are the key developments of the 16th week of the 2019 budget session of the Indiana General Assembly pertaining to K-12 public education and school governance. While legislative leaders have been targeting April 24th as the final day of the session, speculation in the State House halls raises doubt that they will complete work on Wednesday. A new scenario is surfacing that legislators will work through Wednesday or Thursday and come back on Monday, April 29, to finish business for the 2019 session. The national NRA conference is in Indy next week and will feature President Trump on Friday, making downtown Indianapolis a big traffic jam that most want to avoid. We will have to wait and see.

With the third reading deadlines of bills in the second chamber now behind us, we are down to the conference committee process where conferees negotiate to resolve differences between the House and Senate versions of bills.

With additional bills failing to move through a third reading in the second chamber, the ISBA bill tracking list ([HERE](#)) is down from 78 bills to **56 bills**. Remember, when the session started we were tracking 190 bills, but 112 of those bills died in the first half of the bill process.

Approximately 23 of the 56 bills are going to conference committee for further modifications via amendments. This is where language that has died along the bill process can resurface, and we need to be vigilant to ensure detrimental provisions to K-12 education do not prevail.

WEEK IN REVIEW

The State Budget Committee met on Wednesday and was presented with the updated revenue forecast for the next two fiscal years by the Technical Revenue Forecast Committee. The new revenue forecast downgraded total state revenues (sales tax, income tax, corporate tax, gaming revenues and other revenues) for the next two years; however, not by a significant amount, relatively speaking, when considering the \$34.6 billion state budget. The forecast estimates a decrease of \$33.2 million below the prior forecast issued in December. The most significant

news shared on Wednesday was that the Medicaid budget request needs to be increased by \$65.2 million, which diminishes available funds for other state programs and services.

NEWS ON OTHER BILLS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The conference committee on [HB 1001](#), the state budget, met yesterday and took public testimony for a final time on the components on the budget. The K-12 public education was well represented with testimony from ISBA, IASBO, ISTA, IFT and even Kevin Brinegar of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, who spoke to the need for increased funding for public education to raise teacher compensation. I spoke to the following items that we would like to achieve in the final version of the state budget:

- Maintain in the budget Governor Holcomb's Post-1996 Teacher Retirement Fund liability payoff of \$150 million, which in turn is estimated to free up \$70 million statewide for school corporations in their Education Fund budgets;
- Raise the tuition support formula to an average increase of 2.5% per year of the next biennium. The Senate version of HB 1001 included an average tuition support increase of 2.35%; the highest numbers approved so far this session. ISBA believes the legislature should prioritize K-12 education funding in the final version of the budget by decreasing appropriations for other programs and/or by using some of the state's reserve funds. To achieve the additional 0.15% increase would only cost about \$11 million more in the first year and about \$22 million in the second year;
- Support the Teacher Appreciation Grant (TAG) program at \$30 million or more annually;
- Maintain the increased funding for ELL/Non-English Speaking Grant program from \$17.5 million/year presently to the \$22.5 million/year included in both the House and Senate budgets;
- Support the House increase of \$5 million/year (over the FY '19 funding of \$15 million) for the Secured School Grant program; this funding increase was not maintained by the Senate;

There are two items presently included in HB 1001 that the K-12 education community collectively opposes:

- The addition of a second ADM count in the second semester for funding purposes;

- The “70% tier” for the Choice Scholarship Voucher program.

PLEASE email or call your area legislators to ask for 1) adequate funding of at least 2.5%/year for tuition support; 2) \$20 million/year for the Secured Schools Grant; and, 3) to oppose the 70% tier for Choice Scholarship Voucher program.

[HB 1404](#) – **School accountability** (Rep. Tony Cook); ISBA position: **OPPOSE**. You have received multiple updates on this bill in the ISBA weekly updates. ISBA has consistently been opposed to the inclusion of post-high school graduation outcome measures because the post-graduation outcome measures would reflect outcomes 6-12 months after students graduate from high school. ISBA testified in three public hearings (twice in House Education Committee and once in the Senate Education & Career Development Committee) that, while there are many good provisions of the bill (to align the high school accountability system with the new graduation pathway components and using on-track indicators), the post-graduation metrics remain unreasonable and inequitable metrics for which to hold schools accountable. Rather, higher education institutions, the branches of the U.S. military, and employers should own the further development, training, and advancement of young adults in their respective systems.

This bill was on second reading on Monday in the Senate. Senator Jean Leising introduced a second reading amendment to remove the post-graduation metrics section from the bill. After a lengthy debate on the floor of the Senate about the amendment, it prevailed by a 35-14 vote. On Tuesday, the third reading deadline in the Senate, Senator Jeff Raatz, the bill sponsor, decided not to call the bill for its third and final time. Thus, HB 1404 is dead for the session. However, the contents of the bill will be eligible for amendment into another bill in a conference committee and will likely land somewhere.

When contacting your area legislators on HB 1001, **PLEASE ASK THEM TO OPPOSE THE INCLUSION OF POST-GRADUATION METRICS IN THE STATE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.**

This is your last weekend to engage in grassroots advocacy. **We need your voice to be heard NOW** more than any point of this session. Don't forget ISBA has legislator contact information on the Legislative Services page [HERE](#). Thank you to the many school board members who have

actively engaged in the ISBA grassroots advocacy campaign this year.

Here is wishing everyone a pleasant Easter holiday weekend!