



Dear ISBA Members:

I hope this message finds you doing well and off to a great start in 2022! Today marks the conclusion of the first week of the Second Regular Session of the 122nd Indiana General Assembly. The session is commonly referred to as the “short session” and must finish by March 14, 2022. As a reminder, I will be sending you an ISBA Weekly Legislative Update every Friday through the duration of the session that will highlight key activities and news that has transpired during the current week and may preview key legislative developments for the following week.

Bill Tracking List

ISBA makes available an automated bill tracking list available to members to assist you in monitoring the status and progress of all the bills that the Association will be tracking. The bill filing deadline for legislators is on Tuesday, next week. As of today, there are approximately 85 bills that the Association will be tracking. I suspect this list will grow to more than 150 bills following the filing deadline. You can view the ISBA Bill Tracking List [HERE](#).

Partisan School Board Election Bills

As anticipated, a handful of bills have been filed that would move Indiana to partisan school board elections. The bills vary in scope from candidate discretion to self-identify party affiliation on the general election ballot, mandatory declaration of party affiliation on the general election ballot, or adding a primary and requiring school board candidates to meet same election requirements as other local partisan offices. The bills identified so far include: [HB 1182](#), [HB 1042](#), [HB 1145](#), [HB 1240](#), and [SB 144](#).

[HB 1182](#) is scheduled for a hearing in the House Elections & Apportionment Committee, Tuesday, January 11, 8:30 a.m. The committee will meet in Room 156-C of the State House. House Bill 1182 would require party affiliation, or if a candidate does not affiliate with a party an independent candidate designation, for school board candidates in the general election. The bill sets a process to affirm party affiliation based on primary voting history in the two most recent primary elections. **Would you please consider coming to testify on the bill?** If you can attend, ISBA will reimburse you for mileage and parking expenses. We would ask that you plan to arrive between 8-8:15 a.m. I will help ensure that you get signed up to testify. Please let me know if you are interested in testifying by emailing me at: tspradlin@isba-ind.org. ISBA will testify against the bill and use these **Talking Points**. In addition, I will ask for the committee to consider alternative ideas such as local control on the move to partisan elections and a preference of optional party affiliation identification over mandatory declaration.

If unable to attend, please email or call your area state representative and these members of the House Elections and Apportionments Committee to express your perspectives: http://www.iga.in.gov/legislative/2022/committees/elections_and_apportionment_0500

Other Key Bill Information

[SB 2](#) **Virtual instruction and tuition support** (Author: Senator Jeff Raatz). This bill provides that, in determining whether at least 50% of the instructional services that a student receives from a school corporation is virtual instruction for purposes of the 2021 fall count of average daily membership (ADM), the Indiana Department of Education shall review the attendance of each student on each school day from

the school corporation's first day of school until the school corporation's last day of school of the 2021 fall semester. ISBA testified in support of this bill on Wednesday in the Senate Education and Career Development Committee. It passed out of committee by a 12-0 vote. We thank the bill author, legislative leaders, and Dr. Katie Jenner for bringing this bill forward to provide a solution for the significant number of student quarantines that transpired first semester that would impact tuition support funding. This bill ensures that if the student is not a virtual student more than 50 percent of the semester, that the tuition support formula will provide 100 percent funding for these students.

[SB 167](#) Education Matters (Authors: Senators Baldwin, Raatz, and Holdman).

The Senate Education Committee heard nearly eight hours of testimony on this bill on Wednesday, including testimony from parents, students, teachers, education associations, and mental health organizations. The major concepts in the bill include the creation of a curricular materials advisory committee, changes to the administration of a personal analysis, evaluation, or survey to students, a mandate to post on the Internet curricular materials and educational activities, a prohibition on including or promoting eight specific concepts in curriculum, instructional programs, or supplemental instructional materials (relating to discussions of sex, race, ethnicity, religion, color, national origin, and/or political affiliation), requiring parent consent for certain mental, social-emotional, or psychological health services, and removing from the crime, dissemination of materials harmful to minors, the defense that the dissemination was for educational purposes. The bill was held for amendments and a possible vote for next week or a later date.

4th Annual ISBA State House Day

Please mark your calendar for **the 4th Annual ISBA State House Day on February 15**, to be held at the Indianapolis Downtown Marriott, 350 W. Maryland Street, Indianapolis. We are asking board presidents and legislative liaisons for every school board to attend. If you cannot make it, please ask another board representative from your school board to attend. We are requesting only two members from every board to attend to contain costs. This will be at no charge to attendees. We will also be reimbursing each attendee a stipend of \$35 to assist with any parking and mileage expenses. A separate email was sent on Monday

with full details and the agenda for this event. Another comprehensive email will be sent next week, or if you have any questions, please email me at: tspradlin@isba-ind.org

Please RSVP your attendance via email to Talia Bynm at: tbynm@isba-ind.org. We have sent a letter of invitation from ISBA to all legislators inviting them to attend, but once you know that you will be coming, please extend a personal invitation via email message or letter to your legislators to join you at your table (that will indicated by table markers by ISBA region).

In closing, do commence efforts to reach out to your area legislators to (re-)introduce yourself and offer your service as a trusted resource on K-12 public education issues during the session and on an ongoing basis. Take the opportunity to advocate for the ISBA 2022 Legislative Priorities. In addition, offer your perspective on the impact of the proposal to move Indiana to partisan school board elections. Thank you for your efforts and contributions to engage in the ISBA Legislative Action Network and grassroots advocacy on behalf of the more than 1 million public school students and effective school board governance.

Sincerely,



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