



Dear ISBA Members:

Here is your Week #2 ISBA Weekly Legislative Update to highlight key activities and news that has transpired this week during the 2022 short session of the Indiana General Assembly.

Bill Tracking List

The bill filing deadline for legislators was on Tuesday. A total of 859 bills were filed for introduction this session. Of all legislation, there are now approximately 140 bills that the Association is tracking. You can view the ISBA Bill Tracking List [HERE](#). Bills will have to be passed out of the committee of assignment in the House of Representatives by Tuesday, January 25, and in the Senate by Thursday, January 27, to remain eligible in the bill process.

Partisan School Board Election Bills

A total of seven bills ultimately 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, adding a primary and requiring school board candidates to meet same election

requirements as other local partisan offices, or permitting local determination to move to partisan elections. The bills include: [HB 1182](#), [HB 1042](#), [HB 1145](#), [HB 1240](#), [HB 1305](#), [SB 144](#), and [SB 279](#).

[HB 1182](#) was heard in the House Elections & Apportionment Committee on Tuesday, January 11. 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. As mentioned in my email update on this bill sent Tuesday afternoon, there were 20 people, including seven school board members from across the state, who testified in opposition to the bill. Not a single person testified in support of the bill. The bill was held without a vote and is not on the committee agenda for its hearing next week.

ISBA would once again like to thank everyone who testified against the bill, including the following school board members:

- Derek Morgan, Spencer-Owen Community Schools
- Rachel Overberg, Silver Creek School Corporation
- Bob Savage, Elwood Community Schools
- Mike Kerschner, Carmel Clay Schools
- John Doherty, School Town of Munster
- Brandon Kroft, Duneland School Corporation
- Heather Reichenbach, Warsaw Community Schools

Thank you to all members who have reached out to your area legislators over the past week. The efforts have been tremendous! Please continue to email, call, or write your area legislators to share your thoughts and concerns about this legislation and the issue in general. Here are the ISBA [Talking Points](#) for your use.

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 last week in the Senate Education and Career Development Committee. **The bill was recommitted to the Senate Appropriations Committee and heard yesterday. It passed by an 11-0 vote and now moves to the floor of the Senate for second reading next week.** We thank Denny Costerison, IASBO, for representing ISBA's support for this bill during his testimony to the Appropriations Committee. We also 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% of the semester, the tuition support formula will provide 100% 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 last 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 pulled from the committee agenda this week and rumor has it that it will not be brought back for a vote. However, the House version of this legislation, [HB 1134](#) (Author: Rep.

Tony Cook), was heard in the House Education Committee on Monday and again Wednesday with several hours of testimony. The committee amended the bill and voted it out by an 8-5 vote on Wednesday. One favorable amendment was removing the requirement that teacher lesson plans be posted to the school's Internet website. It now goes to the floor of the House of Representatives and will be eligible for second reading and amendments next week.

SB 184 Residential Housing Development Program (Author: Senator Travis Holdman). This bill was heard in the Senate Local Government Committee on Thursday and passed by a 7-2 vote. This legislation would remove school board approval of a proposed residential housing development program (some refer to as a "HoTIF"). The bill now moves to the full Senate and will be eligible for second reading and possible amendment on Wednesday of next week. ISBA testified in opposition to the bill as we believe that the 2019 law creating the residential housing program with school board review and approval has helped improve communication and collaboration between school corporations and municipal and county governments, and enhanced transparency about the financial impact of the HoTIF. Please share any concerns or perspectives on this bill with your area senator if you are serving on a school board that has participated in this process.

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 providing each attendee a stipend of \$35 to assist with any parking and mileage expenses. A separate email was sent on Tuesday 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).

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,



Terry Spradlin

Executive Director

Indiana School Boards Association

One North Capitol Avenue, Suite 1215

Indianapolis, IN 46204-2225

(Office)317-639-3588

(Mobile)317-750-2056

