



Indiana School Boards Association

One North Capitol Ave. • Suite 1215 • Indianapolis, IN 46204-2225
Phone (317) 639-0330 • Fax (317) 454-0731 • www.isba-ind.org

Dear ISBA Members:

Here are the key developments of the fourth week of the 2019 budget session of the Indiana General Assembly pertaining to K-12 public education and school governance...

WEEK IN REVIEW

The final list of introduced bills was read in the House of Representatives today and the total number of introduced bills this session is 1,349. Can you imagine that many new laws? Amazing to think that the legislature can adequately or thoroughly consider that many bills in a four-month session. *But try they may!* The reality is more than half of these bills will never see “the light of day” via a committee hearing and, thus, die in committee. Of those that get out committee, another 50 percent will eventually fail somewhere along the bill process pipeline. Ultimately, Hoosiers may face a couple of hundred new laws this session to acquaint themselves with and for which to comply.

BILL FILINGS AND TRACKING

The ISBA Bill Tracking List now includes a staggering 182 bills that are relevant to K-12 education, school governance, and other child-related legislation. Click [HERE](#) to view the bill tracking list that can also be accessed on the ISBA Legislative Services page at: <https://www.isba-ind.org/legislative.html>

BILLS HEARD IN COMMITTEE THIS WEEK OF SIGNIFICANCE

- [HB 1166](#) – **Redevelopment Commission Membership** (Rep. T. Cook); ISBA position: SUPPORT. This bill would require the appointment of a school board member (or an individual recommended by the school board) to redevelopment commissions as a voting member. There was testimony both in favor and against the bill. The bill was held by the Chair of the House Government and Regulatory Reform Committee in order to resolve some questions about the residency requirement of any individual recommended by the

school board. ISBA thanks Jane Burgess, Board Member of the Zionsville Community School Corporation, for her testimony in support of the bill.

- [HB 1400](#) – **Education Mandates** (Rep. T. Cook); ISBA position: **SUPPORT** with recommended changes. This bill identifies over 40 legislative mandates that would expire on July 1, 2020, and urges the legislative council to assign to the interim study committee on education the task of reviewing each of the mandates and making a recommendation on whether the mandates should expire or be improved to lessen the administrative burden on schools. There was general support for the bill by several school administrators and education organizations, including ISBA, but concerns were expressed about some of the mandates identified to expire and the feasibility of conducting such a comprehensive review over a few months. The bill was held by the Chair of the House Education Committee for suggested amendments.
- [SB 342](#) – **Employment of Minors** (Senator C. Perfect); ISBA position: **OPPOSE**. This bill would repeal virtually all state child labor laws, including the work permits that school officials sign (and can revoke) and the BMV would no longer revoke a driver's license of a minor who drops out of high school. There is simply **NO** merit for this legislation! ISBA supports maintaining current law that places time and hour restrictions on employers when employing minors, the duty to obtain an employment certificate from the school and with parent signature, and the ability of school officials to revoke the certificate if the employment is interfering with the student's attendance or academic standing. Senator Boots recessed the hearing of the Commission on Pensions and Labor due to time constraints, but testimony will resume on Wednesday, January 30, at 9:30 a.m., in Room 233. **Please consider coming to testify AGAINST this bill; or write, email, or call Senator Boots, Committee Chairman; President Pro Tempore Senator Rod Bray; and any of the committee members found here to ask them to oppose this bill:** http://www.iga.in.gov/legislative/2019/committees/pensions_and_labor_4500
- [SB 362](#) – **Tax Credit for Classroom Supplies** (Senator J. Raatz); ISBA position:

SUPPORT. This bill increases the income tax credit for an individual employed as a teacher for amounts expended on classroom supplies from \$100 to \$500 per taxable year. There were several lobbyists that testified in favor and only a few with questions or concerns. This bill was held for possible amendment and vote on Wednesday, January 30, at 1:30 p.m., Senate Chamber.

- [SB 508](#) – **School Employee Training Requirements** (Senator J. Raatz); ISBA position: SUPPORT. In summary, this bill moves many training requirements from every 1-3 years to a five-year cycle in conjunction with license renewal for certified staff. In addition, the Interim Study Committee on Education Issues must review teacher training requirements once every five years. This bill was held for possible amendment and vote on Wednesday, January 30, at 1:30 p.m., Senate Chamber.

BILLS ON SECOND READING

Two bills of significance that ISBA is tracking and support were called on second reading in the House today, HB 1004 and HB 1034 (no second reading amendments on this bill). **Great news to share!** Our call-to-action alert from last Friday and your apparent response appears to have helped contribute to a second reading amendment on HB 1004 today. The amendment adopted today expands the use of the Secured Schools Grant to provide school-based mental health services to students or to form partnerships with mental health providers to provide school-based mental health services to students or provide school-based social-emotional wellness services to students. This was an amendment that the committee wasn't willing to consider last week. What a difference a week and advocacy engagement makes! We hope these bills keep moving through the process. Here are the bill summaries:

- [HB 1004](#) – **School Safety** (Rep. W. McNamara); ISBA position: SUPPORT. This bill, among other things, will increase the Secured Schools Grant amount from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for larger school corporations and decrease the local grant match requirements for smaller school corporations from 100% down to either 25% or 50% depending on the size of the school corporation. These changes will increase interest and the number of applications for the grant, making it a more competitive grant program; thus, increasing

the likelihood of denied applications. While we support the bill, the Secured Grant Fund should be increased from \$15 million per year to \$20 million per year.

- [House Bill 1034](#) – **Political Subdivision Controlled Project and Debt** (Rep. J. Thompson); ISBA position: SUPPORT. This bill modifies the threshold amounts used for determining whether a political subdivision's project is a controlled project and whether the petition and remonstrance process or the referendum process applies. It bases these threshold amounts on gross assessed value. It also allows, via a “may” provision, for school corporations to include referendum ballot language specifying the net tax rate impact if existing debt is being retired. This is one of ISBA’s legislative priorities. In addition, an amendment was offered by Rep. Thompson, suggested by ISBA, and adopted by the committee to allow for the Debt Service tax rate to increase as an exception to the resolution to be adopted, if assessed valuation declines. We thank Representative Thompson for his work on this bill.

As always, lots of information to share with you! I hope you are finding the weekly legislative updates to be insightful and just the right amount of information. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Lisa Tanselle or myself if we can answer