



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 fifth week of the 2019 budget session of the Indiana General Assembly pertaining to K-12 public education and school governance...

WEEK IN REVIEW

Many K-12 education bills are on the move, either through hearings and votes in committee, second reading, and some have already cleared the third reading hurdle in the house of origin. Therefore there is much to report in this weekly legislative update. I will try to highlight and summarize as best I can, and you can read more carefully for bills of interest to you and your school corporation. Overall, the biggest two developments this week were:

1. The Ways & Means concluded hearing budget requests from state agencies and public entity spokespersons and allowed for the first time this session public testimony on the state budget. I testified and offered the following remarks ([READ HERE](#)) that focused on the need for a tuition support increase that matches or exceeds inflation of about 2.5% and increasing funding by \$5 million/year (to \$20 million) for the Indiana Secured School grant for school safety initiatives. Other pro-public education groups testifying were: IASBO, IN. Coalition for Public Education, IN. Federation of Teachers, and Superintendent Bowsman, Randolph Southern School Corporation.
2. [House Bill 1641](#) was presented to the House Education Committee on Wednesday. This bill is titled "Charter School Matters," but when reading the full bill and digesting its content, this is a very hostile bill to school corporations. Why? In part, the bill would require the governing body of a school corporation that adopts a resolution to place a tax referendum on the ballot to include a provision that each charter school in the allocation area will receive a part of the proceeds collected from an imposed tax. **Can you believe that?** My editorial remarks: *So, let the local (public school) community undertake all the work to promote the campaign, establish the need for the tax resources, contribute all the costs and manpower to run a referendum campaign, but hey let's be generous and give a percentage of the funds to the area charter schools while we are it. Really?* Referenda campaigns are complex and challenging to explain to voters, and this would serve as a significant disincentive for school corporations to want to pursue a referendum in the future. There are many arguments against this proposal. The committee chairman and also bill author, Rep. Behning, filed an amendment to delete this section from the bill, but the amendment was not offered on Wednesday when public testimony was taken, but no action resulted on the bill. So, it will come back for amendment and vote at a later date. Please share your local story and perspectives with your area legislators about why this bill should be defeated.

CALL-TO-ACTION ALERTS

Thank you to all ISBA members who responded to the four call-to-action alerts sent this week on HB 1166, SB 342, and SB 246. You helped us “turn up the volume” and weigh in on these bills (in support of HB 1166, and in opposition to SB 342 and SB 246). I have heard from more than one source that many calls have been made by school board members and superintendents this week and this is having an impact. ISBA appreciates your engagement in these important advocacy efforts in support of K-12 public education!

Speaking of advocacy, Kayla Baldwin has created new Legislator Contact Directories found via the ISBA Legislative Services page of our website that includes the address, phone number, and email address for each legislator that you can use to initiate communication to legislators. You can find these contact lists [HERE](#).

BILL TRACKING

The ISBA Bill Tracking List now includes 185 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 1400 – Education Mandates** (Rep. T. Cook); ISBA position: SUPPORT. Rep. Cook introduced an amendment to the bill that would urge the legislative council to assign to the interim study committee on education a review of approximately 70 mandates over a period of 4 years. The committee’s task would be to study how to eliminate, reduce, or streamline the number of education mandates placed on schools. The amendment also removed language establishing an expiration date of July 1, 2020, for each of the mandates. The amendment was accepted and the bill passed out of the House Committee on Education unanimously.
- **SB 342 – Employment of Minors** (Sen. Perfect); ISBA position on introduced version: AGAINST. This bill would repeal the child labor laws. The author of the bill introduced an amendment this week to water the bill down by urging the legislative council to assign an interim study committee to study the statutory restrictions placed on the employment of minors. The amendment was approved by the Senate Pensions and Labor Committee and the bill, as amended, passed out of the Committee.
- **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) as a voting member of redevelopment commissions. The bill was held by the Chair of the House Government and Regulatory Reform Committee. Please keep calling the members of the committee to ask for their “Yes” vote on the bill.

HOUSE FLOOR ACTION

On Tuesday, the House passed the following bills:

- HB 1034, Author - Representative Jeff Thompson, political subdivision controlled projects passed on third reading by a vote of 96-1. The bill reclassifies the thresholds for controlled projects and adds language to the referendum question to allow information on debt that will be paid off reducing the impact of the referendum tax increase. ISBA contributed language for the bill draft and, therefore, supports the bill.
- HB 1004, Author – Representative Wendy McNamara, is a comprehensive school safety promoted by Governor Holcomb. It passed on third reading on Monday by a vote of 96-2. ISBA fully supports this bill. Amendments promoted by ISBA were incorporated into this bill in committee and on second reading. There is a comparable Senate bill ([SB 266](#)) being considered in the Senate Education & Career Development Committee that will be amended and voted out of committee next week.

Thanks again for all of your advocacy contributions -- it was a good week!