



Indiana School Boards Association

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Dear ISBA Members:

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

WEEK IN REVIEW

And the beat goes on! Another full week in the legislature is in the books with many K-12 education bills moving along in the bill process—either through hearings and votes in committee, second reading, or third reading in the house of origin. The pace has been rather frenetic. *Why?* Bills have to move out of committee in the House with committee reports adopted by February 19th, and by February 21st in the Senate, to remain alive in the bill process. In addition, a number of amendments are being offered that can alter the contents of a bill significantly. For example, six different bills were merged together into one bill (SB 266) on Wednesday in Senate Education & Career Development Committee without advance availability of these amendments, and with no public testimony allowed on this new voluminous bill (see more on this bill below).

Key bills on the docket this week address school safety, bus safety, school accountability, and governance issues.

BILLS OF SIGNIFICANCE HEARD IN COMMITTEE THIS WEEK

- [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 amended in the House Government and Regulatory Reform Committee and passed by a vote of 11-0 on Wednesday.** While that is great news, **the bill was then recommitted to the House Ways & Means Committee by Rep. Brian Bosma, Speaker of the House,** based on rule 127 that this bill has fiscal implications. Please call Speaker Bosma's office at: 317-232-9677 and ask that he allow

this bill to move to the floor for further action, and share that school corporations are many times the largest employer in TIF areas, are a key to community economic development, and school corporation revenues can be adversely impacted by TIF districts. We should have a voting member at the RDC table!

- [HB 1404](#) – **School Accountability** (Rep. T. Cook); ISBA position: OPPOSE. This bill provides that a high school may count a: (1) work-based learning course; or, (2) career and technical educational course that is an approved course under the rules established by the State Board of Education (SBOE); as satisfying an Indiana diploma with a Core 40, academic honors designation, or another designation requirement. Provides that, before July 1, 2020, the SBOE shall establish new standards of measuring school performance (for Indiana’s K-12 school accountability system). This bill would require the SBOE to redesign and align a new K-12 accountability system to the Indiana Graduation Pathways **AND include post-graduation outcomes measures**. Note: it is the latter part of the bill synopsis that raises significant concern. The post-graduation outcomes measures would reflect metrics of outcomes 6-12 months after students graduate from high school, including: (A) Successful completion of at least twelve (12) credit hours at a higher education institution and a student’s continued enrollment and status of good standing at a higher education institution; (B) Successful completion of a high-wage, high-demand certificate as defined by the Department of Workforce Development; and, (C) Enlistment in, and continued service in, any branch of the armed forces of the United States or their reserves, the National Guard, or the Indiana National Guard. **ISBA testified in committee on Wednesday that these are unreasonable metrics for which to hold schools accountable.** Schools do not control or directly determine the decisions young adults make many months removed from high school. Young adults experience many life events, financial challenges, or family matters that may interfere with long-term goal attainment, but have nothing to do with academic preparation. While this is valuable data to provide to school corporations for analysis, these metrics should not be used in a punitive manner. Rather, ISBA would support using these metrics as a bonus in computations to improve a high school’s accountability letter grade.

- [SB 002](#) – **School Bus Safety** (Senator R. Head); ISBA position: SUPPORT. This omnibus school bus safety bill was passed by a 10-0 vote in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday. A primary provision of the bill is to increase penalties for a person who violates the bus stop arm device when extended. Many other provisions not summarized here (please use the link to the bill to review the bill contents).
- [SB 127](#) – **Referendum for School Safety Levy** (Senator T. Holdman); ISBA position: SUPPORT. In summary, this bill creates a third type of local levy referendum designated specifically for school safety programs or initiatives that school corporations want to place before voters for approval. The Senate Tax & Fiscal Policy Committee moved an amendment to change the levy limit from \$.05 per \$100 AV to \$.10/\$100 AV. The bill provides a comprehensive list of how the referendum levy funds could be spent by a school corporation to support school safety initiatives. Lastly, if a school corporation passes a school safety referendum levy in excess of \$.075, then the school corporation would be ineligible to apply for grant funds through the Indiana Secured Schools Fund. The Committee passed this bill, as amended, by a 12-1 vote.
- [SB 266](#) – **School Mental Health, Safety, and Other Education Matters** (Senators M. Crider and R. Head); ISBA position: UNDER REVIEW. As referenced above, five other bills were amended into this one bill by the Senate Education & Career Development Committee on Wednesday. After amendment, the Committee passed the bill 10-0. In summary, the bill includes school-based mental health and social-emotional wellness services to the list of things for which a school corporation can use Secured School grants and advances from the Safety Advance Program. In addition, the bill also includes the following introduced bills:
 - SB 326 - establishes the Integrated School-based Mental Health and Substance-use Disorder Grant Program for schools. Gives schools \$10 per student under the grant. Includes accredited nonpublic schools that can receive the grants. **ISBA very much supports this funding provision as we were seeking a \$5 million increase to the Secured Schools Grant to include school-based mental**

health services. This would generate more than \$10 million/year for this new grant program.

- SB 427 - Adds the school mental health specialist or school mental health provider to the county school safety commission. Adds the director of DMHA to membership on the secured school safety board. Allows a school to use an advance in funding for implementing integrated school based mental health services.
 - The amendment also added Senate Bills 428, 507, and 611.
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- **SB [421](#) – School Corporation Disannexation** (Rep. Bohacek); ISBA position: OPPOSE. This bill creates a process that would allow the disannexation of territory, defined as one or more townships, from one school corporation and the annexation of that territory to another school corporation. The disannexation process would be initiated by the adoption of resolutions by the fiscal body of the township and the governing body of the acquiring school corporation. The resolutions would have to include a plan that addresses, among other things, the disposition of assets and liabilities of the relinquishing school corporation to the acquiring school corporation and the allocation between the two school corporations of subsequently collected school taxes levied on the property in the annexed territory. The plan would have to be submitted to the State Board of Education for approval. The school corporation that would lose the territory by the proposed disannexation would have no authority or role in the process. The bill passed out of the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee.

FLOOR ACTION

In the House this week three additional K-12 education bills passed on third reading, signifying these bills move over to the Senate for further consideration. These bills were: **HB 1172** (Virtual Education [regulations]) 92-3; **House Bill 1225** (Safe Schools [active event warning systems]) 95-0; and, **House Bill 1400** (Education Studies [deregulation review]) 94-0.

NEXT WEEK

As you may recall, [House Bill 1641](#) was presented to the House Education Committee last week. This is the bill titled “Charter School Matters,” but when reading the full bill and digesting its content, this is a very hostile bill to school corporations. 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. The committee chairman and also bill author, Rep. Behning, filed an amendment to delete this section from the bill. The bill is scheduled to be amended and voted on by the Committee on Monday at 8:30 a.m. Please continue to share your local story and perspectives with your area legislators over the weekend about why this bill, as introduced, should be defeated.

CALL-TO-ACTION ALERTS

Don't forget that ISBA has created new Legislator Contact Directories for your use to contact your area legislators. This information can be found on the ISBA Legislative Services page [HERE](#).

BILL TRACKING

The ISBA Bill Tracking List now includes 188 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>.