



Dear ISBA Members:

[HB 1001](#), the state biennial budget, was amended and passed by the House Ways & Means Committee on Thursday. This was by far the most significant news of the week. As mentioned in the last Legislative Update, this version of the state budget reflects the spending priorities of the House Republican Caucus. You can read more about the funding included for K-12 public education here in the **Week #6 ISBA Legislative Update**.

ISBA Bill Tracking List

There are presently 179 bills on the ISBA Bill Tracking List [HERE](#). Many of these bills will die in the bill process with the pending deadlines occurring over the next two weeks. The committee report deadline for bills to emerge from assigned committees is Tuesday (2/16) in the House and on Thursday in the Senate. The second reading deadline is 2/18 in the House and 2/22 in the Senate. Finally, the third reading deadline for bills in the house of origin is 2/22 in the House and 2/23 in the Senate.

State House Day a Success!

Thank you to all who attended the Third Annual ISBA Virtual State House Day on Tuesday. We had about 120 people join us for the online sessions during the morning. We started with a session status report for members and then had two panel sessions with key legislators. ISBA thanks Senators Bray, Raatz, Kruse, and Melton, and Representatives Huston, Brown, GiaQuinta, Behning, Delaney, and Pfaff for joining us and answering member questions. Attendees were asked to engage in grassroots advocacy during the afternoon by writing, emailing, or calling their area legislators on bills of concern as well as bills that support of ISBA's legislative priorities.

Key K-12 Education Bill Activity

[HB 1001](#), **State Biennial Budget**, Author: Rep. Brown. The House Ways and Means Committee passed HB 1001 out by a 16-8 partisan vote on Thursday. As described further in the bill synopsis below on HB 1005, the proposed budget is a mixed bag of good and bad news. The good news is that the state has avoided a fiscal cliff prompted by the Coronavirus Recession. The state revenue projections for the next two years indicate growth and a healthy budget surplus. As a result, no cuts to funding of K-12 education will occur and we can expect increases at or above inflation. The bill includes a tuition support increase for schools at 1.25% in Fiscal Year 2022 and 2.5% in Fiscal Year 2023. ISBA will continue to advocate for a higher tuition support increase each year throughout the session. To view the tuition support formula simulation run go to:

[Senate Bill 51](#), **Medicaid Reimbursement for Schools**, Author: Senators Zay and Rogers. This bill expands services for which school corporations may receive Medicaid reimbursement. It passed out of the Senate Health and Provider Services Committee on Wednesday by a unanimous vote after the committee adopted an amendment prohibiting school corporations from receiving Medicaid reimbursement for services related to abortion and contraceptives.

[Senate Bill 54](#) **FAFSA Requirement**, Author: Senator Leising. As reported previously, this bill will require school officials to ensure that every senior completes a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or a parent of the student signs a waiver declining to complete it. The building principal or school

counselor may also decide to waive the requirement due to extenuating circumstances. ISBA issued a letter to all senators asking them to vote no, but the bill passed out of the Senate by a vote of 27-20. The roll call record of the senators vote is [\[HERE\]](#). Please be sure to contact your area senator if they voted in opposition and thank them for their vote aligned to ISBA's position. The bill now moves to the House of Representatives for further consideration and ISBA will continue to work against the bill.

[Senate Bill 251](#), **Deduction of Dues to Exclusive Representative**, Author: Senator Boots. This bill addresses issues related to the deduction of union dues from teacher paychecks. It passed out of the Senate Pensions and Labor Committee on Wednesday by a vote of 6-4 after the committee adopted an amendment that 1) makes the bill effective upon passage; 2) changes from "immediately" to "at the end of the school employee's current pay period" the timeframe by which a school corporation must cease deduction of dues after receiving notice from a teacher; 3) modifies the time frame from "immediately" to "during the school employee's current pay period" by which a school corporation must provide notice to a teachers' union of a school employee's notice to cease the deduction of union dues; and 4) requires the Indiana education employment relations board to notify all school districts of the provisions of the bill by July 1, 2021. The underlying bill specifies the process and procedures for teachers to authorize school corporations to deduct union dues from their paychecks, prescribes the form that teachers must use to authorize school corporations to deduct union dues from their paychecks, and requires each teacher on an annual basis to submit a form to the school corporation if they wish to re-authorize the school corporations to deduct union dues from their paycheck.

[House Bill 1437](#) **Electronic Communication at Public Meetings**, Author: Rep. Cook. This bill authorizes school board members to participate in meetings remotely and to be counted as present and be able to vote as long as the board member can be seen and heard. There are some issues that a board member may not vote on if participating in the meeting remotely, such as adopting a budget, initiating a referendum, and making personnel decisions. The bill also requires the board to allow the public to simultaneously attend a meeting via electronic

communication. ISBA testified in favor of the bill. The bill passed out of the House Government and Regulatory Reform Committee by a vote of 9-3. The bill moves to the House floor for a second reading. A similar Senate bill, [SB 369](#), authored by Senator Rogers, is eligible for third reading by the Senate.

[HB 1514 School Accountability](#), Author: Rep. Cook. This bill repeals consequences, such as state takeover of low performing schools, in the A-F school accountability system, it requires the State Board of Education to create a “dashboard” accountability system by July 1, 2024, and it provides a hold-harmless provision to exclude Spring 2021 ILEARN test scores from use in computing the A-F accountability grade for schools and school corporations. This bill passed by a 94-0 vote on third reading in the House of Representatives on Thursday. It now moves to the Senate for further consideration. ISBA wishes to thank Representative Tony Cook for his efforts to champion this bill supported by the Association.

Action Alert #1: PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL YOUR LEGISLATORS NOW TO OPPOSE HB 1005 AND SENATE BILLS 412 & 413

[HB 1005 School Choice Matters](#), Author: Rep. Behning. This bill proposes to establish an Education Scholarship Account program for students with disabilities and foster children to provide (private) school tuition and related educational expenses. HB 1005 would take effect in Fiscal Year 2023. In addition, the bill expands the Indiana Choice Scholarship voucher program by increasing income eligibility guidelines (so that a family of five with income of approximately \$174,000 would qualify in the 2022-23 school year) and eliminates the 70% and 50% tuition support payment limit thresholds for higher-income families. This bill passed out of the House Ways & Means Committee on Tuesday and will move to the floor of the House for a third reading vote next week, although this language was amended into HB 1001 yesterday. While the fiscal impact of HB 1005 (and SBs 412 and 413, the comparable bills moving in the Senate) was reduced with committee amendments, these choice expansion measures, when coupled for increased funding for charter schools, still consume more than \$100 million in new funding in HB 1001 (state budget bill). More than 160,000 students presently exercise school choice when including public school transfers through open enrollment. Now is not

the time to expand these programs further and both divert money away from the more than 1 million students in public schools and diminish the resources needed to increase teacher pay. ISBA continues to update the ESA is Not OK advocacy toolkit with many resources that you can access and use here: <https://www.isba-ind.org/esa-is-not-ok.html>.

Please email or call your area state representative to ask for their opposition to HB 1005 and your state senator to oppose Senate Bills 412 and 413! They need to hear from you now if we are to succeed in defeating or reducing the scope of these bills. To find your area senator and their contact information, go to: <https://www.isba-ind.org/legislator-contact-information.html>

Thank you!

Sincerely,



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