



Dear ISBA Members:

State House Day Review

Thank you to the many members who attended the 5th Annual ISBA State House Day event on Tuesday. Of the approximately 180 participants, there were 41 legislators who shared a portion of their busy day with us during our event – a fantastic number! After the luncheon, many school board members went as a group to the State House to speak with other legislators who were unable to join us earlier in the day. What a great day for grassroots advocacy as a part of the ISBA Legislative Action Network! Please don't forget to send a thank you note to legislators that you spoke with during the day.

Key Bill Activity for Week #7

All bills not making it out of committee in the house of origin this week are now dead for the session. The third reading deadline for bills to get out of the House will be on Monday, and on Tuesday for the Senate. Bills then cross over to the second chamber for the next phase of the session beginning on March 6. As a reminder, session must conclude by April 29.

Partisan School Board Elections **CALL-To-ACTION ALERT******

HB 1428 School Board Elections (Author: Representative Prescott) provides that a school board may adopt a resolution to initiate a change to move to partisan school board elections, or the voters of the school corporation may initiate a change through petition. Provides that, in either case, the voters of the

school corporation must approve any change by public question. This bill has been held on the third reading calendar for more than a week. Speculation is that this signifies an insufficient number of votes to pass it on the third reading. **Given that Monday is the third reading deadline, it will be a make-or-break day for this bill. ISBA asks all members to call or email your state representative and ask that they vote “NO” on HB 1428 to ensure students come first in the board room, not politics! Contact information for your legislators can be found [HERE](#).**

[SB 188 School Corporation Governing Bodies](#) (Author: Senator Sandlin) a bill that was heard in the Senate Elections Committee in January to require school board candidate's affiliation with a political party or status as an independent candidate to be stated on the ballot died in that committee formally this week without a vote.

TIF Legislation Updates

[HB 1081 Residential Tax Increment Financing](#) (Author: Representative Heine) removes the threshold conditions that apply to a county or municipality for establishing a residential housing development program and a tax increment allocation area for the program, as well as removes school board review and approval of the HoTIF proposal. This bill was recommitted to the Ways & Means Committee and Chairman Thompson held the bill without a hearing and indicated this decision was made since SB 300 was coming to the House of Representatives with the same language. Thank you to ISBA members who contacted their state representative in opposition to the bill.

[HB 1085 Tax Increment Financing](#) (Author: Representative Clere) was amended on second reading yesterday to remove the provisions that one member of a redevelopment commission must be appointed by the governing body of the school corporation within the territory, as well as a provision that required a passthrough of 5% of excess proceeds collected by a TIF to school corporations. While this bill as amended now has no direct benefit to school corporations, the bill does impose appropriate fiscal accountability and transparency requirements on redevelopment commissions that oversee TIF districts.

State Biennial Budget

[HB 1001 State Budget](#) (Author: Representative Thompson) provides several increases to K-12 education categorical funding items including special education, ELL, CTE, school safety, prekindergarten programs, and provides

state funding to eliminate textbook rental fees paid by parents. ISBA appreciates these increases that are aligned to its Legislative Priorities. However, it should be noted that of the 8.5% increase in tuition support funding in Fiscal Year '24, more than \$400 million of the \$679 million increase is for the textbook expenses (\$160 million), ELL grants rolled into the school funding formula (\$33 million), and approximately \$240 million for the expansion of the Choice Scholarship voucher program – an increase of more than 70% in funding for that program. This leaves less than half of the 8.5% K-12 education funding increase for tuition support to school corporations. In Fiscal Year '25, 74% of school corporations will receive an increase of 2% or less for tuition support, and worse, 81 school corporations will lose funding in the second year of the biennium. ISBA will focus on the Fiscal Year '25 appropriation amount in the Senate with hopes that the April revenue forecast provides for a more optimistic state revenue stream to support better school funding in the second year of the budget.

Other Key Bill Activity This Week

[HB 1447](#) **Education Matters** (Author: Representative Schaibley) focuses on certain personal analyses, evaluations, or surveys conducted by third party vendors in public schools. The bill prohibits the vendor and the school corporation from recording, collecting, or maintaining the responses or results of the survey in a manner that would identify individual students. It also requires the school to secure the written consent of the parents before administering the personal analysis, evaluation, or survey and to allow parents to inspect all materials related to the personal analysis, evaluation, or survey. The bill also requires the school to post the personal analysis, evaluation, or survey on its website. The bill passed out of the House Education Committee by a vote of 7-4 and passed out of the House on third reading on Thursday by a vote of 94-0. It will now be assigned to the Senate.

[HB 1591](#) **Education Matters** (Author: Representative Behning) was amended and then unanimously voted out of the House Education Committee on Monday. The bill primarily makes changes to the current law on innovation network schools, but also addresses retaining public records in an electronic format, requires public schools to report information on physical injuries inflicted on school employees by students, requires the superintendent of a school corporation to inform school board members of certain internal investigations and of matters involving legal expenses expected to exceed \$5000, and requires school corporations to expend at least 62% of state tuition support on teacher compensation. Teacher compensation includes amounts expended for

adjunct teachers, supplemental payments for teachers, stipends, and cooperative teacher compensation. The bill passed out of the House on third reading on Thursday and will now be assigned to the Senate.

[HB 1608](#) **Human Sexuality Instruction** (Author: Representative Davis) as introduced would have prevented instruction in gender roles, gender identity, or sexual orientation in kindergarten through the third grade. The bill was amended by the House Education Committee before testimony began to prohibit instruction on human sexuality in the same grades. Other amendments to the bill include requiring schools to notify parents if a student makes a request to change the student's name, pronoun, title, or other word that is inconsistent with the student's biological sex and to allow use of a name, pronoun, title, or other word that is inconsistent with the student's biological sex only if the parent requests in writing use of a specific name, pronoun, title, or other word to identify the student. Lastly, the amended bill prohibits a school from disciplining an employee who chooses to identify a student by a name, pronoun, title, or other word that is consistent with the student's legal name. The bill passed out of the Committee by a 9-4 vote and, on Thursday, passed out of the House on third reading by a 65-29 vote. The bill will now be assigned to the Senate.

[SB 391](#) **Closure of School Buildings** (Author: Senator Rogers) was amended and then voted out of the Senate Education & Career Development Committee by an 8-4 vote on Wednesday. This bill requires school boards to close underutilized buildings under defined circumstances and make them available to charter schools and post-secondary educational institutions under the current \$1 law. The amendments add "qualified nonprofit corporations who engage in educational activities" to the list of organizations that could lease or purchase a closed school building under the \$1 law and extend the time for these organizations to submit a preliminary request to purchase or lease the building to 90 days. The bill is eligible for second reading on the floor of the Senate on Monday.

Bill Tracking List

ISBA makes available to members an automated bill tracking list to assist you in following the status and progress of all the bills that the Association will be monitoring. Look next week for the tracking list to be significantly pared down from the 223 bills that we've been tracking that address local or school governance matters, taxation, children, or K-12 education policy. Check the ISBA Bill Tracking List [HERE](#).

Thank you for reading the ISBA Weekly Legislative Update and your efforts and contributions to engage in the ISBA Legislative Action Network!

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



This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Indiana School Boards Association · 1 N Capitol Ave Ste 1215 · Indianapolis, IN 46204-2095 · USA