



### **2021 Mid-Session Report and Scorecard**

The 2021 budget session of the Indiana General Assembly has reached its midpoint with the third reading deadline of bills in the chamber of origin occurring earlier this week. Here is your **Week #8 ISBA Legislative Update** that includes a scorecard on ISBA's priority bill list.

The two essential duties of the state legislature this session is to adopt the 2021-2023 state budget and redistrict legislative and congressional district boundaries based on the 2020 U.S. decennial census. House Bill 1001, the state biennial budget, has cleared the House of Representatives and will now be considered by the Senate. However, no action has been taken on redistricting, as the task has been delayed by the late delivery of census data from the federal government. Look for redistricting to become a special session item in May or June.

#### **ISBA Bill Tracking List**

ISBA has been busy tracking 179 bills from the start of the session. Now, at this juncture of the session, the tracking list is down to 61 bills with the others having died in the bill process. To view the new tracking list, click [HERE](#). The summary to follow in this update may not highlight a bill of interest to you, so please check out

the tracking list report for full details on every bill still active and relevant to K-12 public education.

### **Key K-12 Education Bill Activity**

The 2021 session has presented challenges to K-12 public education—such as HB 1005 that greatly expands school choice programs—as well as opportunities to support pro-public education agenda items (e.g., COVID-19 governance bills; see the February e-Dition column from Lisa Tanselle on related topic). Here is a session scorecard on key ISBA priority bills still moving.

### **ISBA Priority Bill List**

ISBA has identified the following bills that align with our Legislative Priorities or are bills initiated by the Association:

- **HB 1001, State Budget**, Author: Representative Brown. Status: passed 65-30 in the House on 2/22/2021
- **HB 1002, Civil Immunity Related to COVID-19**, Author: Rep. Jerry Torr. Status: passed 76-21 in the House on 2/1/2021
- **HB 1003, Tuition Support**, Author: Rep. Hal Slager (Note: This bill addresses ADM count and funding for virtual instruction due to COVID-19). Status: passed 93-2 in the House on 1/26/2021
- **HB 1008, Student Learning Recovery Grant Program**, Author: Rep. Martin Carbaugh. Status: passed 94-2 on 2/2/2021
- **HB 1186, Early Graduation and ADM Counts**, Author: Rep. Bob Cherry. Status: Amended into HB 1001
- **HB 1187, Tax Increment Financing**, Author: Rep. Bob Cherry. Status: dead; no committee action
- **HB 1363, Controlled Projects**, Author: Rep. Jeff Thompson. Status: dead; no committee action. (Note: ISBA is looking for another bill to amend with this bill language.)
- **HB 1437, Electronic Communication at Public Meetings**, Author: Rep. Tony Cook. Status: passed 86-7 in the House on 2/18/2021
- **SB 1, Civil Immunity Related to COVID-19**, Author: Senator Mark Messmer. Status: Signed into law as Public Law 1 by Governor Holcomb on 2/18/2021

- **SB 2, Funding for Virtual Instruction in Public Schools**, Author: Senator Jeff Raatz. Status: passed 41-6 in the Senate on 2/2/2021
- **SB 333, Education Matters**, Author: Senator Jeff Raatz (Note: this bill establishes a new process for setting school board member per diem). Status: passed 47-0 in the Senate on 2/23/2021
- **SB 369, Electronic Meetings and Signatures**, Author: Senator Linda Rogers. Status: passed 46-0 in the Senate on 2/15

### **CALL-TO-ACTION ALERT! House Bill 1005/SB 413**

Your voice remains essential to influence the outcomes on key legislation. We have had some victories already this session with the help of grassroots advocacy engagement by ISBA members (e.g., SB 124, First Day of School). If the K-12 public education community is to achieve greater funding increases in the budget and diminish the scope of the school choice voucher programs, your continued engagement is paramount. Every legislator needs to hear from multiple constituents throughout session on why “ESAs are Not OK” and that the voucher program does not save the state money, does not improve student achievement, lacks transparency and accountability, and is subject to less regulation and oversight than public schools. Legislators need to hear from you that public schools are “the schools of choice” and that “dollars should follow the child to school they attend (public schools!).” To learn more about ISBA’s advocacy campaign “ESA Is Not OK!”, go to: <https://www.isba-ind.org/esa-is-not-ok.html>.

Thank you to the many school boards who have adopted a resolution in opposition to these bills. Now, will you lend your voice on a more personal level? Legislators are home for a three-day recess and long weekend. There is no time like the present to write, email, or call them to share your perspectives. When lawmakers hear from school board members, that gets their attention. Your voice matters!

Please review the roll call votes on each bill to see how your area legislators voted on HB 1005 ([Roll Call](#)) and SB 413 ([Roll Call](#)). Thank those who voted against these bills, and ask those who supported each, why? Share your perspectives on why you oppose these measures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Spradlin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a white rectangular box.

**Terry Spradlin**

**Executive Director**

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