



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

124th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025

 **Week 12 Overview**

As the session progresses, the first set of bills have landed on the Governor's desk. The Governor signed seven bills this week after they had passed through both chambers. When a bill gets sent to the Governor, the Governor has seven days to decide on whether or not to sign the bill. During the seven days the Governor can either sign the bill, veto, or do nothing. If a bill is signed or the Governor takes no action, the bill becomes law. However, if the Governor vetoes the bill, then the bill will go back to the General Assembly where it needs to pass both chambers with a simple majority to override the Governor's veto.

 **Committees**

Health

The Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee heard HB 1587, Insurance Matters – Sen. Mike Gaskill (R – Pendleton). Among other administrative changes, HB 1587 would require insurance to reimburse services performed through a mobile integrated healthcare program. During committee, three amendments were offered and adopted by consent. Amendment #10 deleted the provisions of the bill that dealt with minors, Amendment #9 repealed a database that is no longer in use, and Amendment #11 extended the implementation deadline for administrative rules directed in the bill. The bill passed Committee as amended, 8 to 0.

Two agency bills, HB 1457, Indiana Department of Health – Sen. Ed Charbonneau (R – Valparaiso) and HB 1474, FSSA Matters – Sen. Charbonneau were heard in the Senate Health and Provider Services Committee this week. HB 1457 would reorganize provisions of Indiana code dealing with the Health Department and amend the list of crimes precluding individuals from working as home health aides. There were numerous technical amendments offered and adopted by consent during Committee. The bill passed the Committee as amended, 12 to 0.

HB 1474 would change requirements for managed care organizations (MCOs)

participating in waiver programs amongst other technical changes requested by FSSA. Specifically, HB 1474 would require MCOs to pay the minimum reimbursement rates to providers and submit reports on claim denials. During Committee, concerns over the new managed care system were raised. Since HB 1474 requires a recommit, the Committee decided to move forward with voting on the bill. The bill passed out of Committee as amended, 8 to 3, and was recommitted to Senate Appropriations.

The Senate Health and Provider Services Committee also heard HB 1003, Health Matters – Sen. Charbonneau. HB 1003 is a House Republican priority bill that would give the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, within the Attorney General’s Office, more authority to investigate Medicaid fraud. Additionally, the bill would require site of service neutrality and prior authorization (PA) reforms. The bill would promote the modernization of healthcare records by directing the Indiana Office of Technology to develop new medical records and data standards. Additionally, HB 1003 would require healthcare entities to provide records at no cost to the patient. The bill was held after over 20 individuals and organizations offered testimony.

HB 1024, Medicaid reimbursement for Children’s Hospitals – Sen. Rick Niemeyer (R – Lowell) would extend the expiration date on the provision that allows for out of state children’s hospitals to be reimbursed through Medicaid. During Committee, Amendment #1 was adopted by consent. The Amendment added the sunset provision back into the bill, moving it from 2025 to July 1, 2027. The bill was passed the Committee, as amended, 8 to 2.

Education

The Education Committees had another week of hearing several bills and taking several testimonies. In the Senate Education and Career Development HB 1002, Various Education Matters – Jeff Raatz (R – Richmond) was heard. HB 1002 is intended to deregulate Indiana’s education system. HB 1002 was on amend and vote only, and there were several amendments introduced. Sen. Linda Rogers (R – Granger) introduced Amendment #30 which would re-add language that was originally stripped around automated external defibrillators (AED) training and AED equipment presence at school events. Amendment #30 was taken by consent. In addition, Sen. Rogers also introduced Amendment #29, which defines what counts as curriculum materials for the purpose of school corporations knowing what materials they can charge for. Amendment #29 passed, 12 to 4. Sen. Gary Byrne (R – Byrneville) introduced Amendment #32 to repeal Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), Trauma-Informed Care (TIC), and culturally responsive trainings and methods from teachers. Amendment #32 passed, 8 to 4. Sen. Goode (R – Terre Haute) introduced Amendment #33 which takes language from SB 382, County Transfers or Gifts to School Corporations and moves it into HB 1002. This provides that if Vigo County transfers unincorporated funds, Vigo County may establish a local oversight board to manage and issue those funds. Sen. Raatz introduced Amendment #34 which returned some of the charter school language removed in the House, including the required submission of economic interest information at the time a

charter school organizer submits a proposal for a charter school. In addition, Amendment #34 would protect transfer students from being discriminated against and added language about employer-to-contract employee requirements. Amendment #34 was adopted by consent. HB 1002 was passed as amended and recommitted to the Senate Appropriations Committee, 8 to 4.

HB 1660, Excused Absence from School – Sen. Brian Buchanan (R – Lebanon) would allow the governing school board to authorize the absence and excuse of a student if they participate in certain events offered by the National/Indiana Future Farmers of America (FFA) or the Head, Heart, Hands, and Health (4-H) Club. The bill passed out of the Committee, 13 to 0.

The House Education Committee met on Wednesday, hearing several bills, including SB 255, Education Matters – Rep. Michelle Davis (R – Whiteland). SB 255 would grant more flexibility to the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) when granting practitioner licenses to individuals with a bachelor's degree and major in any Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM) related field. It would allow these individuals to be granted a license if they met certain academic credits or took a proficiency exam. In addition, SB 255 would also clarify a perimeter for students who receive religious instruction to not exceed time equivalent to one elective course. The bill previously listed that the religious instruction may not exceed 120 minutes in total in any week. Rep. Behning introduced Amendment #6 which gives greater flexibility to IDOE in granting practitioner licenses through the licensure pathways. The bill passed the Committee as amended, 9 to 4.

Another bill heard was SB 365, Education Matters – Rep. Jake Teshka (R – North Liberty). Rep. Teshka introduced Amendment #14 which targeted secondary education programs through IDOE. Amendment #14 would task IDOE with administering and implementing a career navigation/coaching system through the Commission for Higher Education and its Career Coaching Fund. Amendment #14 was taken by consent. The bill passed the Committee as amended, 9 to 4.

SB 373, Department of Education – Rep. Behning (R – Indianapolis) was heard this week to discuss two amendments. These were Amendment #7 and Amendment #9. There were several testimonies on the Amendments, which the Committee plans to vote on next week. Amendment #7 would create a pilot program for IDOE to oversee mastery-based education. Amendment #9 would do several things. It would establish a student transportation pilot program and respective board. Additionally, Amendment #9 would also establish the Indianapolis Local Education Alliance (alliance). The alliance would be required to conduct a school facilities assessment and a transportation implementation plan. This plan would be a recommendation on how Indianapolis Public Schools and charter schools could potentially share facility and transportation resources.

Fiscal

The House Ways and Means Committee met on Wednesday to discuss SB 5, State Fiscal and Contracting Matters – Rep. Matt Lehman (R – Berne). SB 5 would require a review of full-time state positions that have been vacant for 90 days or more. It would also require the budget director to provide quarterly updates to the Governor’s Office, and state agencies to provide the State Comptroller with a contract for inclusion in the Indiana transparency website. Rep. Lehman introduced Amendment #10 for transparency and making the bill only applicable to state agencies, requiring a report due to the budget agency four times a year, and a review of the state Medicaid budget to be publicly posted. Amendment #10 passed by consent. SB 5 passed the Committee as amended, 22 to 0.

Gaming

Two bills were heard this week regarding gaming in the House Public Policy Committee. SB 108, Charity Gaming – Rep. Ethan Manning (R – Logansport) would redefine what constitutes as a charity game, changing events to be classified as a “card, dice, and roulette game event.” The bill would also limit facilities/ locations holding charity games to three days per calendar week. SB 108 would allow revenue from the charity games to be used for any lawful purpose including building maintenance and staff salary. The bill was held for further discussion.

SB 209, Electronic Pull Tabs in Charity Gaming – Rep. Manning would allow the use of electronic pull tab games, electronic pull tab devices, and electronic pull tab systems for charitable gaming. The bill also provides a maximum number of electronic pull tab devices that may be present in a permitted location. Rep. Manning introduced Amendment #5 during the Committee which limits the electronic pull tab devices to three, five, seven depending on facility occupation limits. The bill passed the Committee as amended, 12 to 0.

Criminal Justice

The Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee heard HB 1006, Prosecutors – Sen. Aaron Freeman (R – Indianapolis), on Tuesday. HB 1006 would establish the Special Prosecutor Unit, Review Board, and the Public Prosecution Fund. Sen. Freeman introduced Amendment #14, which would add judges and support staff to the Commission on Court Appointed Attorneys. Amendment #14 was passed by consent. Amendment #20 was also passed by consent and would make appointments more consistent with four-year terms. Sen. Freeman introduced Amendment #22, which would allow four out of the five members on the review board rather than three, to be from the same political party. Amendment #22 passed 5 to 3. HB 1006 passed committee as amended 5 to 3 and was recommitted to the Senate Appropriations.

Elections

On Wednesday, the House Elections and Apportionment Committee heard SB 10, Voter Registration – Rep. Kendell Culp (R – Rensselaer). SB 10 would specify that proof of identification may not include a document issued by an educational institution (ex. a college ID) and clarifies circumstances an individual may be removed from the voter registry. Rep. Culp introduced Amendment #10, which would require the local voter registration office to conduct voter list maintenance, mail a notice, and remove voters who have not voted in the last two general elections. Amendment #10 would also establish a process to cross-check duplicate voters with other states. Amendment #10 passed 8 to 4. Rep. Boy introduced Amendment #20, which would add a consular report of birth abroad as identification. Amendment #20 passed by consent. SB 10 passed committee as amended, 9 to 4.

Utilities

The Senate Utilities Committee heard HB 1007, Energy Generation Resources – Sen. Koch (R – Bedford), on Thursday. HB 1007 would provide a tax credit for utilities that produce and use a Small Nuclear Reactor (SMR). Rep. Soliday introduced Amendment #5, to remove tariff language that was previously added in an amendment in the House. Amendment #5 was taken by consent. HB 1007 passed the Committee, 8 to 3, and was recommitted to the Senate Tax and Fiscal Committee.



Points of Interest

Governor Mike Braun signed Executive Order (EO) 25-40: Increasing Opportunity for Indiana’s Business and Hoosiers through Permitting Transparency and Accountability. This executive order requires the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Department of Transportation (INDOT) to publish permitting data to the public. The Governor stated his “administration is committed to transparency and accountability,” and are “taking action to make Indiana the best place in America to start and grow a business.” A full list of executive orders Governor Braun has issued can be found [here](#).

This week, as mentioned above, Governor Mike Braun also signed his first set of bills into law as Governor. One of these bills was HEA 1149, Agricultural Online Portal – Rep. Kendell Culp (R – Rensselaer), which will establish an online portal through the Indiana Department of Agriculture to help users access and navigate any agricultural or related topics in state and federal agencies. HEA 1149 will also give the public an opportunity to comment on regulations as well as provide feedback on the portal. Gov. Braun stated that the bill proved “we are getting stuff across the finish line.” You can find a full list of all bills signed by the Governor

this week below:

- HEA 1050, Technical Corrections – Rep. Karen Engleman (R – Georgetown)
- HEA 1056, Controlled Substances – Rep. Wendy McNamara (R – Evansville)
- HEA 1121, Concurrent Juvenile Delinquency Jurisdiction on Military Bases – Rep. Wendy McNamara (R – Evansville)
- HEA 1122, Unlawful Encroachment – Rep. Wendy McNamara (R – Evansville)
- HEA 1213, Insurance and Transfer on Death Deeds – Rep. Matt Lehman (R – Berne)
- HEA 1289, Employment Social Enterprises – Rep. Carey Hamilton (D – Indianapolis)



Session Floor Highlights

The Senate continued to pass House bills on 3rd reading this week, the most notable are written below.

- HB 1131, Town of Cumberland – Sen. Michael Crider (R – Greenfield), passed 43 to 4.
 - This bill would make the Town of Cumberland an excluded city and no longer part of the consolidated City of Indianapolis.

The House also continued to pass Senate bills on 3rd reading this week.

- SB 178, Natural Gas and Propane as a Clean Energy Resources – Rep. Doug Miller (R – Elkhart), passed 74 to 20.
 - This bill would provide that the state continues to recognize natural gas and propane as “clean energy” for any state or federal program requiring funding.
- SB 281, Expungement – Rep. Gregory Steuerwald (R – Avon), passed 71 to 21.
 - This bill would specify that law enforcement, while acting within the officer’s duties, can access certain records relating to juvenile offenses. SB 281 would also allow expungement the prosecuting attorney consents and if the person seeking an expungement is not an elected official.



Looking Ahead

The Indiana General Assembly will reconvene on Monday, March 31, 2025. Please use the live link sent in your weekly B&T legislative report email to keep up to date with your bills. Thank you for allowing us to work with you during the 2025 legislative session.

A list of all bills referred to the opposite chamber and still alive can be found [here](#). A full list of the remaining deadlines can be found here: [2025 Session Legislative Deadlines](#).

Please feel free to contact a member of our legislative team should you have questions regarding the happenings in the Indiana General Assembly!

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