



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 123RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 2024

Week Three Overview

The General Assembly continued this week by hearing a variety of bills in committee and passing bills through their respective chamber. The House and Senate both met for session on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, with Wednesday being reserved solely for committee work. The deadline for bills to get out of committee is also looming with the Senate's deadline for 2nd Reading of Senate bills being Monday, February 5th, and the House's deadline for 2nd Reading of House bills being Thursday, February 1st. Highlights from committee meetings throughout this week are outlined below.

Committee Highlights

HEALTH

Senate Health and Provider Services: Senators in committee continued hearing legislation that would positively impact many facets of healthcare. SB 45, Trauma Informed Care – Sen. Michael Crider (R – Greenfield) was heard for the second time in the Senate Health and Provider Services Committee. SB 45 aims to establish a trauma informed training program for those who hold an active license as a nurse. After concern was expressed from nursing organizations and others, lawmakers gathered to amend the bill. Amendment #1 was drafted and adopted to, among other things, give those that are required to receive training five (5) years to complete the program. It also states that receiving the training as part of curriculum in a nursing education program satisfies the requirement. Amended SB 45 passed in committee (10-0), and it was recommitted to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Lawmakers are looking to require health care entities to provide notice of certain mergers or acquisitions to the office of the Attorney General through SB 9, Notice of Health Care Entity Mergers – Rep. Chris Garten (R – Charlestown). The bill passed in committee, 10-0, after heaving discussion.

In SB 192, Various Healthcare Matters – Sen. Tyler Johnson (R – Leo), a myriad of healthcare related provisions are addressed. According to Sen. Johnson, the bill is designed to provide clarity to physicians that deal with denials and other payment related issues, among other things. A few other provisions in SB 192 include language addressing coverage of home healthcare TB testing and pharmacy immunization. SB 192 passed in committee, 9-0, and was recommitted to the Appropriations Committee.

House Public Health: This committee gathered both Tuesday and Wednesday to hear proposed bills aimed at improving Hoosier health. HB 1156, Report on Medicaid Behavior Analysis – Rep. Robb Greene (R – Shelbyville) would require FSSA to submit a report to specified government entities concerning data of ABA services in the Medicaid program. Applied behavior analysis (ABA) services is an approach to treat those with autism or related disorders to improve communication, behavioral, social, and learning skills. HB 1156 sheds light on the use of ABA as the gold standard for early intervention in autism patients. Rep. Greene’s HB 1156 passed in committee (11-0).

An additional bill that would establish new reporting requirements is HB 1205, Community Mental Health Center Reporting – Rep. Jennifer Meltzer (R – Shelbyville). HB 1205 would require that community mental health centers (CMHC’s) specify new information as part of their annual report. A few of these new requirements include patient demographic information, number of diagnoses, and average time from initial engagement to an offered initial evaluation. Legislators believe that the data collected would improve accountability, efficiency, and transparency between CMHC’s and their patients. HB 1205 passed in committee (12-0).

Lawmakers also sought to address Indiana’s nursing workforce in HB 1259, Health Licensing Matters – Rep. Brad. Barrett (R – Richmond). One of the provisions within HB 1259 would allow the Indiana State Board of Nursing to issue, by examination, a registered nurse license to graduates of a foreign nursing school. Indiana is currently suffering a nursing shortage. The goal of this bill is to expand pathways into nursing while maintaining high quality standards. The House Public Health Committee passed HB 1259 (12-0).

Furthermore, the House Insurance Committee heard HB 1385, Payment for Ambulance Service – Rep. Barrett (R – Richmond), which would intend to improve ambulance coverage throughout the state. A section of the bill would require a health plan operator to cover payments for a nonparticipating ambulance provider, among other provisions. HB 1385 passed in Committee, (10-1).

EDUCATION

Senate Education and Career Development: The committee gathered this week to hear SB 50, Chaplains in Public Schools – Sen. Stacey Donato (R – Logansport). The bill aims to increase student support by allowing a principal or superintendent of a public school or a charter school to have a school chaplain that acts as a student counselor. Secular support may only be provided by the chaplain after permission is received from a student or employee seeking services. An additional provision would allow chaplains to offer non-secular advice to students if given permission by their parent or guardian. Chaplains would undergo a criminal background check and would follow the same rules as guidance counselors. SB 50 passed in committee, (9-4), with Democrats being the opposing votes.

House Education: On Wednesday, this committee passed several bills that would improve special education classrooms, allow voluntary religious instruction, and protect intellectual property in state universities. Last week the Committee gathered to hear HB 1243, Various Education and Workforce Related Matters, which was introduced by the Chair of the Education Committee – Rep. Bob Behning (R – Indianapolis). HB 1243 contains many components that work to improve and reshape education. A few of these improvements include a new Indiana diploma, teacher compensation, and computer science coursework. After two weeks of being held after testimonies, HB 1243 passed in committee (12-0).

HB 1137, Release to Attend Religious Instruction – Rep. Kendell Culp (R – Rensselaer), would require that a principal allow a student to attend religious instruction conducted by certain entities after the receipt of a written notice from the student’s guardian. HB 1137 passed in committee (13-0).

Lastly, steps to improve transparency in special education classrooms is outlined in HB 1073, Special Education – Rep. Becky Cash (R – Zionsville). One of the provisions would require cameras in rooms of severely disabled children. Parents, teachers, and support staff would be able to request video recordings for review. However, there was concern for the financial impact that the camera requirement could have on smaller schools. Representatives hope to address the financial aspect to solidify support. HB 1073 was passed in committee, (8-2).

GOVERNMENT

Senate Local Government: This committee met on Thursday morning to hear several bills. SB 157, Landlocked Property – Sen. James Buck, Chair (R – Kokomo) was heard first. Prior to discussing the bill, the committee adopted Amendment #1 from Sen. Buck. Amendment #1 removes the provision from the bill requiring the state or municipality to purchase landlocked property due to state or local government action. As amended, SB 157 now proposes that the county assessor must assess the value of

the landlocked property at zero as long as it is landlocked. Several entities testified as neutral on the bill, but expressed concern that assessing a landlocked property at zero would affect the value of surrounding properties, and proposed changing that requirement to a credit that landlocked land owners can apply for. SB 157 passed committee as amended (10-0) and was recommitted to the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee.

SB 183, County Option Exemption of Mobile Homes – Sen. Jeff Raatz (R – Richmond) was also heard by this committee. SB 183 proposes allowing county councils to choose to exempt mobile homes from taxation. This solution can be chosen for counties where it costs more to assess the property and chase tax payments, than can actually be collected. SB 183 passed committee unanimously (10-0) and was recommitted to the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee.

SB 159, Annexation – Sen. Buck, was also heard in committee. A reoccurring bill over the years, SB 159 proposes requiring municipalities to notify property owners who would be affected by annexation via published ordinance, hold a public hearing regarding the proposed annexation, and collect signatures of at least 51% of property owners in the proposed annexation area who agree to the annexation. Several entities testified against the bill, citing the need for local control and emphasizing that the annexation process is already long and complicated. Entities also testified in support of the bill, emphasizing that there is a significant loss of taxes for other local entities when a municipality chooses to annex an area. SB 159 passed committee (6-4), with Democrats being the majority opposing votes.

House Local Government: This committee met early Tuesday morning to discuss HB 1329, Local Government Matters – Rep. Jim Pressel (R – Indianapolis). Before discussing the bill, the committee adopted Amendment #3 from Rep. Pressel. Amendment #3, among other things, adds clarifying language to licensing/permitting when purchasing a bond. As amended, HB 1329 would allow solid waste districts to provide grants and/or loans to local units to take care of roads or clean storm drains within one mile of landfill sites. Several entities testified in support of the bill, specifically section 5, which would allow localities to hire third-party inspectors. However, there was concern about Section 2, regarding septic tank inspections during the sale of property. Several entities testified in opposition to the bill because of this section, citing health and environmental dangers of failing septic tanks. Ultimately, HB 1329 passed committee, as amended (8-2).

Senate Elections: On Monday, the committee heard SB 135, Redistricting Deadline – Sen. Mike Gaskill (R – Pendleton). The bill would require the redistricting or the recertification of election districts before June 30, 2025. Additionally, it assesses a penalty if a redistricting authority fails to redistrict or recertify election districts,

withholding pay of members of local units. The bill passed unanimously in committee (11-0).

House Utilities, Energy, and Telecommunications: The House Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications Committee met on Tuesday to discuss HB 1306, Live Streaming and Archiving Meetings – Rep. Ben Smaltz (R – Auburn). Described as a “trailer bill” to HEA 1167 – 2023, this bill would provide special exemptions for the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) regarding live streaming meetings. Amendment #1, which was adopted at the beginning of the hearing, and authored by Rep. Smaltz, proposed adding several “shall” provisions to the bill. As explained by Luke Wilson, Executive Director of Legislative and Public Affairs of the IURC, the IURC routinely has two types of hearings: contested and non-contested. While contested hearings involve cross-examination and potential objections, non-contested hearings simply involve entering evidence into the record, and routinely take less than 5 minutes. The IURC supports Amendment #1 because it would exempt the IURC from live-streaming these non-contested hearings, a process that would require extensive and expensive remodels to their second courtroom. Instead, the public can request that any meeting not already planned to be broadcast be livestreamed, and can request transcripts. Additionally, all meeting video will be archived and can be provided to the public upon request. HB 1306 passed committee, as amended, (9-1).

Senate Homeland Security and Transportation: The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation met on Tuesday morning to amend and vote SB 232, Statewide 911 System – Sen. Kyle Walker (R – Indianapolis). Amendment #2, proposed by Committee Chair Sen. Michael Crider (R – Greenfield), was adopted by consent and removed the need for fiscal recommit by including in the definition of a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) that additional PSAPs cannot be created. As amended, SB 232 would remove references to “enhanced 911 service”, and create punitive measures for false 911 calls, among other things. For example, a false informing offense would become a Class A misdemeanor, and if false informing resulted in serious bodily injury or death, it would become a Level 5 felony. SB 232 passed committee as amended (8-0).

ECONOMIC & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

House Public Policy: On Tuesday, the House Public Policy Committee heard HB 1197, Alcohol and Tobacco Commission – Rep. Ethan Manning, Chair Public Policy Committee (R – Denver). If passed into law, HB 1197 would allow for the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission (ATC) to provide notices electronically. Further, the bill would allow the ATC to issue 10 new permits to the city of Noblesville, and it would repeal certain redundancies cleaning up language pertaining to beer gardens and the patio service of alcohol as a result of corresponding legislation passed last session. During

committee, Rep. Manning proposed an amendment requested by the City of Carmel. The amendment allows those who qualify to add a food hall permit, which is a three-way retailers permit for on-premises consumption. The amendment also adds craft manufacturers to host permittees for events. Rep. Manning's amendment were adopted by consent, and the bill passed committee (13-0).

In the same hearing, the committee also deliberated HB 1086, Alcoholic Beverage Sales – Rep. Jake Teshka (R – South Bend). The bill would allow a bar or restaurant to prepare, sell, and deliver alcoholic beverages for carryout in sealed, non-original containers and would allow the bar or restaurant to reduce the price of alcoholic beverages during a part of the day. The bill would also, among other things, require a retailer to obtain either liquor liability insurance or an endorsement with at least \$500,000 coverage to obtain or renew a retailer's permit. This requirement would go into effect after June 30, 2024. Chris Serak, Deputy Director and Executive Secretary at the ATC, responded that while HB 1086 does not intend for the carryout of partially consumed beverages in qualifying containers, the bill does not expressly prohibit such action. Rep. Edward Clere (R – New Albany) concluded discussion stating that “it is better public policy to have someone take the rest of a drink home in a permissible container, than to have them feel like they need to drink the rest of the drink to avoid wasting the purchase.” The bill passed committee (12-1). The lone holdout was Rep. Matt Lehman (R – Berne), who cited a lack of clarity in the carryout procedures. As his reason for opposition.

Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy: This committee heard SB 58, Restaurant Carryout Sales – Rep. Travis Holdman (R - Ossian), after it was referred from the Senate Public Policy Committee last week. The bill would exempt a specialty market from a the retail requirement to sell alcoholic beverages for carryout. Under current law, 60% of gross retail income from alcoholic beverage sales must be derived from the sale of alcoholic beverages intended for consumption on the premises where the sale is made. Passage of SB 58 would remove this 60% requirement for specialty markets. The bill passed committee (13-0) and has been moved for a second reading in the Senate.

Senate Commerce and Technology: The Senate Commerce and Technology Committee met on Thursday morning to hear SB 295, Indiana Economic Development Corporations – Sen. Brian Buchanan, Chair (R– Lebanon). This bill proposes expanding the transparency of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) by, among other things, appointing two nonvoting advisory members to the IEDC board from the General Assembly, and requiring the IEDC to give notice to local units prior to purchasing land that exceeds 100 acres. After supportive testimony from community organizations, SB 295 passed committee unanimously (10-0).

House Government and Regulatory Reform: This committee met on Tuesday morning to hear and amend two bills. HB 1165, Regulatory Sandbox Program and Right to Start Act – Rep. Jake Teshka (R – South Bend) was heard last week in the same committee. Amendment #1, authored by Rep. Teshka, was adopted by consent. Amendment #1 removes fees and charges for business, as well as clearly define state agencies and contractors involved with the bill, among other things. Some Representatives were hesitant about this bill. Rep. Chris Campbell (D – West Lafayette) supported the idea of addressing obstacles with starting a business, but felt that certain regulations should not be removed. HB 1165 passed committee as amended, (8-3).

BUDGET & TAXES

House Ways and Means: The House Ways and Means Committee met on Wednesday afternoon to amend and vote on a variety of bills that were first heard last week. HB 1120, Property Taxes – Rep. Jeffery Thompson, Chair (R – Lizton) had several amendments adopted/passed during committee. The bill now, among other things, proposes extending the current cap on operating referendum tax that may be levied by a school corporation at no more than 3% over the maximum operating referendum. The bill also provides a proposed extended threshold amount that determines whether a political subdivision's project is a controlled project and whether the referendum process applies based on total debt service tax rate, and proposes extending the deadline to apply for a homestead exemption following the purchase of property at the end of a calendar year, among other things. There was Democratic opposition to the portion of the bill relating to operating referendums and school corporations, with worry that this bill could negatively impact schools who have seen a decrease in student enrollment, as the bill places a limited cap on operating referendum tax levies if that is the case. HB 1120 passed committee, as amended, (16-8).

The committee also heard HB 1121, Local Income Taxes – Rep. Thompson. HB 1121 had several amendments adopted/passed during committee. The bill now proposes that revenue from local income tax rates imposed for correctional facilities, rehabilitation facilities, and county hospitals may be used for operating expenses of those facilities, and proposes allowing the two fire districts that merged into Highlander Fire District to receive local tax revenues that were previously withheld, as well as windfall money back that was lost. Additionally, the bill proposes allowing up for a 0.02% local income tax rate to be adopted into Marion County's tax rate that could be used for the purpose of Mile Square improvement, as well as proposes allowing the City of Hammond and the town of Cicero to implement respective food and beverage taxes. HB 1121 passed committee, as amended (19-5).

HB 1199, Repeal of Economic Enhancement District Law – Rep. Julie McGuire (R – Southport) was also voted on by the Committee after heated testimony heard last week. HB 1199 proposes repealing the Mile Square Economic Enhancement District, imposed by Indianapolis City Council in December of 2023. Rep. Gregory Porter (D – Indianapolis) proposed Amendment #1, which would amend and restore portions of the Indiana Code dealing with eligible choice scholarship students that were revoked last session. Amendment #1 failed (8-16). HB 1199 passed committee (15-9).

House Financial Institutions: On Thursday morning, HB 1084, Privacy of Firearms Financial Transactions – Rep. Jake Teshka (R – South Bend) was heard before the House Committee on Financial Institutions. The bill would, among other things, prohibit a governmental entity from recording privately owned firearms and the owners of these firearms. Additionally, the bill would prohibit financial service providers from disclosing financial records related to payment card transactions and personal financial information. Rep. Teshka presented Amendment #2 in committee limiting the Attorney General’s enforcement powers that were deemed too broad in the original bill. The amendment passed by consent, and the bill passed (9-4) with all Republicans supporting and all Democrats opposing.

CRIMINAL LAW

Senate Corrections and Criminal Law: SB 293, Trespass – Sen. Randy Maxwell (R – Guilford) was heard in the committee on Tuesday. The bill would provide that an "agent", under the trespass statute, would include a law enforcement officer if the owner of the property requested the presence of one at or near the property. While police typically get authority from the owner, the statutory language states that the property owner must serve notice directly to the trespassing person thus creating a potentially dangerous situation. The bill passed committee (6-1) with Sen. Rodney Pol (D – Chesterton) voting “no.” expressing issue with the minimum threshold for establishing agency between the officer and the property owner.

SB 23, Damage to a Fire Suppression System – Sen. Vaneta Becker (R – Evansville) was heard. The bill was brought to Sen. Becker by a Vanderburgh County sheriff to respond to inmates destroying fire suppression equipment in detention facilities. Currently, law enforcement is unable to charge these individuals with a crime, but this bill would make such an offence a felony and serve as a deterrent to this action—the bill would apply to adult and juvenile detention facilities. Originally, the offense would be classified as a Level 6 felony, but Committee Chair, Sen. Freeman introduced Amendment #1 upgrading the offense to a Level 5 felony. The amendment was adopted by consent, and the bill passed committee (5-2) voting all Republicans supporting and both Democrats opposing.

House Courts and Criminal Code: HB 1238, Competency to Stand Trial – Rep. Wendy McNamara, Chair of House Courts and Criminal Code (R – Evansville) was heard before the committee on Wednesday. The bill lays out how licensed individuals may examine a defendant and testify to the defendant’s capacity to understand their own defense and the criminal proceedings. HB 1238 allows a court to dismiss criminal charges if the defendant has a certain diagnosis and is charged with a misdemeanor or Level 6 felony. Such licensed individuals that may testify to a defendant’s capacity include: a psychiatrist or psychologist, an advanced practice registered nurse with a certification as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, and a physician or physician assistant who specializes in psychiatry or mental health. The bill passed committee (12-0).

 **Session Floor Highlights**

SENATE

On Monday, six bills were passed in the Senate including: SB 181, Citizenship and Immigration Status – Sen. Eric Koch (R – Bedford) (37-9) and SB 182, Regulation of Drones Near Correctional Facilities – Sen. Eric Koch passing (46-0). The remaining four bills also passed unanimously. Additionally, debate occurred concerning Sen. Chris Garten’s (R – Charlestown) bill SB 234, Disaster Emergency. Proponents of the bill touted the need for public input via the legislature after 30 day state of emergency has been declared by the Governor. However, those opposed to the bill cited the need for decisive executive action in case of an emergency, and they argued how SB 234 would remove the governor’s ability to respond swiftly by involving the legislature. After second reading, SB 234 was ultimately ordered to engrossment.

On Tuesday, senators took a moment to honor the late Senator Jack Sandlin (R – Indianapolis). The chamber also passed a number of bills including SB 205, Collaborative Brewing – Sen. Ron Alting (R – Lafayette) which passed (39-9), and SB 234, Disaster Emergency – Sen. Garten which passed (38-10). Additionally various amendments were proposed for bills on second reading. Sen. Stacey Donato (R – Logansport) introduced Amendment #5 to her bill, SB 29, Town Party Conventions, clarifying that during elections in even numbered years, small towns will automatically file by primary ballot with no option for a convention. However, in odd numbered years, small towns would automatically have a convention unless they file an ordinance to move the candidacy to a municipal election. Amendment #5 to SB 29 was adopted by consent and ordered to engrossment. For SB 129, Police Officer Employment and training Cost Reimbursement – Sen. Gary Byrne (R – Byrneville), Amendment #1 – Sen. Greg Taylor (D – Indianapolis) was proposed and would nullify any unjust enrichment claims one community would face when reimbursed for services already received in paying for the officer’s training. The amendment was not adopted, and SB 129 was ordered to engrossment.

On Thursday, various amendments were proposed for bills on second reading. SB 14, Right of a State Officer or Employee to Carry a Handgun in the Capitol – Sen. James Tomes (R – Wadesville) was amended. Amendment #2 – Sen. Michael Young (R – Indianapolis) was passed and adds language present in the permitless carry bill passed previously and applies it to SB 14. Additionally, Amendment #3 – Sen. Freeman provides that state officials and their staff, being “proper persons,” are permitted to carry inside the capitol; Amendment #3 passed via a roll call vote (38-9) and is ordered to engrossment. SB 52, Prohibition on Use of Dedicated Lanes – Sen. Aaron Freeman (R – Indianapolis) was also amended. Amendment #6 – Sen. Freeman added a provision that no further “turn on red” signs would be put up in the city of Indianapolis until July 1st, 2025. Sen. Faddy Qaddoura (D – Indianapolis) challenged the bill and Amendment #6 by proposing his own amendments in Amendment #1 and Amendment #2 arguing that SB 52 micromanages local governments and their decisions regarding dedicated IndyGo bus lanes. Both Amendment #1 and Amendment #2 failed roll call votes (38-9), and SB 52 was ordered to engrossment.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

On Monday, the House passed eight bills on the floor. HB 1004, Thirteenth Check – Rep. Robert Cherry (R – Greenfield) passed (97-0). HB 1026 Commission, Committee, and Board Administration – Rep. Karen Engleman, Floor Leader (R – Georgetown) passed (93-0). HB 1058, Breast Cancer Screening Services – Rep. Sharon Negele, Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore (R – Attica) passed (94-0). HB 1158, County Contracts – Rep. Matt Lehman, Majority Floor Leader (R – Berne) passed (94-0). HB 1163, Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity – Rep. Dave Hall (R – Norman) passed (94-0). HB 1216, Medical Services for Certain Detainees – Rep. Gregory Steuerwald (R – Danville) passed (93-0). HB 1260, Indiana Department of Health – Rep. Brad Barrett (R – Richmond) passed (96-0). HB 1338, Security of Property and Meeting Decorum – Rep. J.D. Prescott (R – Union City) passed (79-17). The House enacted bills have been referred to the Senate for deliberation.

On Tuesday several bills passed the House Floor on their third readings. HB 1001, Education and Higher Education Matters – Rep. Chuck Goodrich, (R- Noblesville) passed the House Floor after being amended on Monday (80-17). HB 1003, Administrative Law – Rep. Gregory Steuerwald, Majority Caucus Chair (R – Danville) created debate from House Democrats in regards to the proposal that the court shall decide all questions of the law without deference made to any previous interpretations made by state agencies. HB 1003 passed the House Floor (85-10). HB 1235, Prohibited Causes of Action Concerning Firearms – Rep. Chris Jeter (R – Fortville) passed the House Floor (68-27) after emotional testimony from Rep. Ragan Hatcher (D – Gary), representing the City of Gary, whose lawsuit against numerous gun manufacturers prompted the authoring of HB 1235. HB 1383, Wetlands – Alan Morrison (R – Terre Haute) garnered discussion on the House floor between Rep.

Morrison, who believes the bill strikes a good compromise between builders and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and Rep. Sue Errington (D – Muncie), who spoke on behalf of environmentalists and their concerns about reducing wetland protections. HB 1383 passed the House (64-30). HB 1242 , Excess Liability Trust Fund – Rep. Morrison also deals with environmental issues, proposing to allow the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to pay an excess liability trust fund claim to replace underground petroleum storage tanks with underground or aboveground petroleum storage tanks, if being decommissioned. HB 1242 passed the House unanimously, (95-0). HB 1399 PFAs Chemicals – Rep. Shane Lindauer (R – Jasper) passed the House (64-30), with supporters noting the bill provides regulatory certainty going forward and opponents claiming the bill’s definition of PFAs is not compliant with federal definitions. The House enacted bills have been referred to the Senate for deliberation.

On Thursday, the House Floor heard HB 1093, Employment of Minors – Rep. Kendall Culp (R – Colledgeville) for the bill’s second reading. Representative Culp presented Amendment #4, which would change language pertaining to agriculture and replace effective dates. Amendment #4 passed the Floor (67-27) and was ordered to engrossment. HB 1264 Election Security – Rep. Timothy Wesco (R – Osceola) also had language modified via amendment during its second reading. Amendment #2, authored by Rep. Wesco, prevailed on the House Floor with a voice vote adding that information must be provided to first time voters, as well as outlining who constitutes as a first time voter, among other things. HB 1264 was amended and ordered to engrossment. Two bills passed the House Floor on Thursday. HB 1133, Use of Digitally Altered Media in Elections – Rep. Julie Oltoff (R – Crown Point) had several Representatives testify in support, and passed the House Floor unanimously (98-0). HB 1380, Various Education Matters – Rep. Robert Behning (R – Indianapolis) also passed the House Floor, (91-7). The House enacted bills have been referred to the Senate for deliberation.

Looking Ahead

Next week, the Senate will meet for session at 1:30 pm on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. The House will meet at 1:30 pm on Monday and Tuesday and at 11:00 am on Wednesday and Thursday. The Senate’s deadline for 2nd Reading of Senate bills is Monday, February 5th, and the House’s deadline for 2nd Reading of House bills is Thursday, February 1st. Additionally, multiple committee meetings have been scheduled for next week; refer to your personalized Bill Tracker for updates pertaining to specific bill activity.

Please feel free to contact a member of our legislative team should you have questions, need full copies of bills or amendments, or have any questions on matters pending before the Indiana General Assembly.

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