



## Indiana School Boards Association

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Dear ISBA Members:

**With the conclusion of the second week of the 2020 session of the Indiana General Assembly, 20% of the session calendar is already complete!** As mentioned in the Week #1 Update, this is a 10-week “short session” that must conclude by law on or before March 14, 2020 (though the target end date is 3/11/2020). There is a lot of news to share with you on many developments this week.

While I was hopeful that the volume of legislation impacting school governance and K-12 public education would be substantially reduced this year, that hasn't occurred as the number of bills ISBA is tracking as of today is **160** (compared to 190 in the long session last year). This number includes 85 Senate bills and 75 House bills. A total of 913 bills have been filed, which means that nearly 20% of the proposed legislation is related to public education! You can access the ISBA Tracking List [HERE](#).

### **Making News in Week #2**

I was among a handful of K-12 education association leaders invited by Governor Holcomb to attend the annual “State of the State” address on Tuesday evening. We all anticipated some details to be announced regarding his plans to improve teacher compensation. *So what did he say?* The most significant idea shared was his recommendation to the General Assembly to use \$250 million from the surplus in the next budget to prepay the state's obligations to the teachers' retirement fund, which will allow \$50 million a year to be redirected to teacher pay. This plan (if enacted in 2021) would complement the action Gov. Holcomb took following last year's State of the State address, when he announced the use of \$150 million to pay off a pension

liability that schools funded, which is resulting in higher teacher salaries in districts across the state. The Next Level Teacher Compensation Commission will make additional recommendations in the spring. For additional details regarding the rest of his speech and priorities, go to:

<https://calendar.in.gov/site/gov/event/gov-holcombs-4th-state-of-the-state-features-teacher-pay-adoption-support/>.

### **Key Bill Activity This Week**

On Wednesday, the education committees in the House and Senate each dealt with an education deregulation or “school flexibility” bill. The House Education Committee heard [HB 1003](#), **Education Matters** (authored by Representative Jack Jordan), a bill intended to lessen annual training requirements for teacher licensure or license renewal and to provide a process through the State Board of Education permitting schools to seek waivers of state statutes and regulations. The Senate Education and Career Development Committee heard [SB 295](#), **Various Education Matters** (authored by Senator Jeff Raatz), that proposes among other things to create the Indiana Innovation Council to receive, review, and approve applications from school corporations for waiver of regulations. The Council would consist of representatives from several education groups, including ISBA. There was little opposition to these flexibility concepts. However, both bills were held and will potentially be amended by the respective committees next week.

ISBA testified in support of both bills and stated that we want to work with the legislature to move K-12 public education from a highly-regulatory environment at the state level to a deregulated environment that empowers local control and school board decision making. I reminded them that they have enacted 85 new laws regulating public schools in just the last two years, which has contributed to more than 1,600 pages of state statutes and regulations that schools have to comply with daily. Again, legislators have proposed 160 new bills this session that would regulate K-12 public education even further. **Please ask your area legislators why this proliferation of legislation is necessary. WE NEED TO ADVOCATE FOR THIS PARADIGM SHIFT!**

## House Floor Action This Week

- [HB 1001](#), **School Accountability** (Reps. Devon and Carbaugh), the ILEARN “hold harmless” bill described last week passed on third reading by a 100-0 vote on Monday and will now move to the Senate for further consideration.
- [HB 1002](#), **Teacher Evaluations** (Reps. Cook and McNamara), the bill to discontinue required use of state summative assessment scores for teacher evaluations described last week also passed on third reading by a 100-0 vote on Monday and will move to the Senate for further consideration.

## Senate Floor Action This Week

- [SB 2](#), **School Accountability** (Senators Raatz, Bray, Kruse, and Rogers), the Senate’s version of the ILEARN “hold harmless” bill described last week passed by a 49-0 vote on Monday and now moves to the House of Representatives for further consideration.

**Please thank you area legislators for their votes in support of these pro-K-12 public education bills.**

## K-12 Bills Aligned to ISBA’s Legislative Priorities

Please communicate with your area legislators to offer your support for the following bills aligned to ISBA’s 2020 Legislative Priorities:

- [HB 1054](#), **Political Subdivision Controlled Projects and Debt** (Rep. Jeff Thompson). ISBA supports SECTION 7 of the bill that provides, for purposes of a referendum, that if the estimated increase in a political subdivision's property tax levy for debt service for a proposed controlled project will be offset in whole or in part because of the retirement of existing debt of the political subdivision, the proper officers of the political

subdivision may adopt a resolution that includes certain information and statements. Provides that if a political subdivision experiences a decrease in net assessed value, it may be stated as an exception to a political subdivision's statement about maintaining its property tax rate to fund a new controlled project because of the retirement of debt. Specifies the ballot language for the referendum on such a proposed controlled project.

- [HB 1291](#), **Redevelopment Commissions** (Rep. Abbott). This bill, in part, would include a school board member as a voting member on county or municipal redevelopment commissions and adds additional information that the commission's annual presentation of information to taxing units located within the commission's allocation area must include, and specifies that the presentation must include school corporations located within the allocation area. We thank Representative David Abbott for filing this bill. Please email Representative Tim Brown, Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee (at [H41@iga.in.gov](mailto:H41@iga.in.gov)) to ask that he schedule this bill for a hearing in his committee.
- [SB 94](#), **Tax Credits for Education Donations** (Senator Ron Alting). This bill provides for an adjusted gross income tax credit for donations to a public school foundation or school corporation. Please email Senator Jeff Raatz, Chairman of the Senate Education & Career Development Committee (at [Senator.Raatz@iga.in.gov](mailto:Senator.Raatz@iga.in.gov)) to ask that he give this bill a hearing.
- [SB 260](#), **Education Funding** (Senator Victoria Spartz). This bill requires a redevelopment commission to provide notice of an adopted resolution concerning an area in need of redevelopment, an economic development area, or an allocation area, to the: (1) president of the governing body; and (2) superintendent; of each school corporation that is wholly or partly located within the allocation area established by the commission. Requires a redevelopment commission to provide information concerning each tax increment financing district to the: (1) president of the governing body; and (2) superintendent; of each school corporation that is wholly or partly located within the allocation area

established by the commission. Requires an audit of a redevelopment commission or department of redevelopment to include a review of tax increment financing district allocation area funds. ISBA supports this bill, except SECTIONS 2-3. Please email Senator Travis Holdman, Chairman of the Senate Tax & Fiscal Policy (at [Senator.Holdman@iga.in.gov](mailto:Senator.Holdman@iga.in.gov)) to ask that he hear this bill in his committee.

### **ISBA 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual State House Day February 11th**

We are inviting the legislative liaisons, or a representative of all school boards, to attend ISBA's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual State House Day on February 11 at the Indianapolis Downtown Marriott. For more information on this event [CLICK HERE](#). Please help make this an impactful day for school boards in Indiana by ensuring that you have a board representative attend.

I hope you find this information helpful!