



Dear ISBA Members:

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Session Status

Week 4 of the 2024 short session of the Indiana General Assembly is complete. With the third reading deadline on bills in the house of origin occurring on Monday in the House and on Tuesday in the Senate, the first half of the session will be completed. It looks like of the 116 bills on the ISBA Tracking List, 17 House bills and 24 Senate bills are crossing over to the second chamber. As a reminder, the short session must conclude by March 14, 2024. This update includes **two call-to-action alerts that need your immediate response in continued opposition to SB 146 and SB 270.**

Call-to-Action Alerts (C2As)

1. **SB 270 Various Education Matters** (Author: Senator L. Rogers). This bill, among other provisions, requires all school corporations to share referendum dollars with charter schools that elect to participate in the referendum process. ISBA opposes this bill as charter schools presently receive significant charter school facility grant funding from the state. In addition, we oppose the bill because school corporations will have to ask voters for higher property tax increases to support their own needs and provide revenue to charter schools for whatever the use of the funds would be. Finally, SB 270 results in local property tax dollars going to schools outside of the community. ISBA talking points on this bill are available [HERE](#). ***PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL YOUR AREA SENATOR THIS WEEKEND TO ASK THAT THEY OPPOSE THIS BILL.***

2. **SB 146 Youth Employment** (Author: Senator L. Rogers). Among other provisions, this bill provides that a minor who is at least 14 years of age and less than 16 years of age may work: (1) until 9 p.m. if the minor's parent provides written consent for the minor to work later than 7 p.m.; and (2) until 11 p.m. if: (A) the minor is not required to attend school the next day; and (B) the minor's parent provides written consent for the minor to work later than 9 p.m. ISBA adamantly opposes this bill. SB 146 will put Indiana in violation of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act. Because the federal law would be more restrictive, the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division will be forced to increase citations for child labor law violations and, thus, increase the fines and penalties on Indiana employers. The conflict between state and federal law will only confuse students, families, and employers about which regulations to follow. ISBA has directly communicated with the bill author our concerns and suggestions for a possible amendment to remove the pertinent sections of SB 146 to maintain adequate safeguards to protect children and let "children be children." We need to keep a balance between valuable work experiences and a priority on academic

success for minors aged 14 and 15. ISBA talking points on this bill are available [HERE](#). ***PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL YOUR AREA SENATOR THIS WEEKEND TO ASK THAT THEY OPPOSE THIS BILL.***

Update on HB 1376

ISBA has sent you multiple C2As on this bill that proposed to restrict school referenda to November general elections only. *Your response was effective!* There was significant opposition of both Republican and Democrat policymakers in the House of Representatives to the introduced bill. As a result, in a rare procedural move, the bill was pulled on Monday from the third reading calendar and returned to second reading. On Wednesday, the bill was amended to restrict timing of only controlled project (building) referenda to the general election. Thus, operating and school safety referenda can continue to be held in primary, special, or general elections. That is a significant (partial) victory! However, **the bill was voted out of the House yesterday on third reading by a narrow 51-43 vote** (see the roll call vote [HERE](#)). Please review the roll call to see how your state representative voted on the bill. If they voted “no,” please email them a note of gratitude for standing with ISBA and the K-12 education community against this bill. Now, please begin to email, text, or call your state senator in opposition to the current version of the bill. ISBA will continue to oppose this bill.

Other Floor Action

- [House of Representatives](#)
- **[HB 1073](#) Special Education** (Author: Rep. B. Cash). The bill was amended on second reading on the House floor to require the installation of electronic recording equipment in certain special education classrooms, time-out areas, and seclusion rooms by July 1, 2025, *subject to available funding*. The bill allows a parent of a student with a disability or a special education teacher or aide to view the recording if there was an incident involving the use of

seclusion or a restraint of a student or the parent believes there was an incident that has negatively affected the education or physical or emotional health of the student. The bill passed out of the House on third reading by a vote of 73-24.

- Senate
 - **SB 1 Reading Skills** (Author: Senator L. Rogers). This is perhaps the most significant K-12 education bill of the session. It, among other provisions, requires certain schools to offer summer school courses for students who are not reading proficient, or are at risk of not being reading proficient as indicated on the determinant evaluation of reading skills approved by the State Board of Education. It also requires certain summer school courses to be taught by a teacher who is trained in the science of reading. Provides that if a student does not achieve a 90% attendance rate in a summer reading course, the student is required to participate in an individual reading plan in the following school year. Requires the Department of Education (department) to procure a universal screening assessment (assessment) that meets certain criteria. Requires certain schools to administer the assessment to students in kindergarten through grade 2 who are not on track for reading proficiency by grade 3 as determined by the IDOE. ISBA supports this bill. It passed on third reading yesterday by a 36-13 vote (see roll call [HERE](#)).

 - **SB 212 Various Education Matters** (Author: Senator J. Raatz). This bill, among other provisions, provides that the public meeting that must be held before a contract for employment is entered into by a governing body and a school superintendent may take place at a regular or special meeting of the governing body and does not have to happen at least seven days before the

contract is entered into. It also provides that if only one new member is elected to the board of the governing body, a governing body may enter into a contract with a superintendent after the election (present law says if no changes occur to a governing body following an election). Repeals provisions regarding the Primetime Program. This bill aligns with ISBA's Legislative Priorities on education regulatory relief). SB 212 passed on third reading by a 49-0 vote on Tuesday. ISBA thanks Senator Jeff Raatz for working with ISBA to include these provisions.

ISBA in Action

This week the ISBA Legislative Action Network Team tracked 3 committee hearings and testified in support of four bills. Here we will highlight some of the key bills discussed in these hearings.

- [Senate Education & Career Development Committee](#)
- [SB 128](#) **Human Sexuality Instruction** (Author: Sen. G. Byrne). The bill requires the school board to approve and then post in a conspicuous place on the school corporation's website the following information related to the instruction on human sexuality: (1) the grade levels in which the subject will be taught; (2) whether the instruction will be provided in classes with male and female students or in classes where the students are separated by gender; (3) whether the instructor is male or female; (4) a short description of the topics of the class; and (5) all learning materials that will be used in the class. The bill also requires school officials to include a link to this information in the notice of consent that is sent to parents of students who will be given instruction on human sexuality. ISBA testified in support of the bill. The bill passed out of the Committee by an 8-5 vote.
- [SB 211](#) **Various Education Matters** (Author: Sen. J. Raatz). The bill requires the Department of Education to establish a civics

seal program through which students, teachers, and schools are awarded civic seals recognizing excellence in civics. The bill also adds to the education code a definition for a charter school corporation to allow the charter school corporation to receive tuition support dollars for all of the charter schools operated by the same organizer. The bill changes the date for the start of formal collective bargaining to October 1. The bill passed out of Committee by a 9-4 vote.

- **[SB 282](#) Absenteeism and School Attendance** (Author: Sen. S. Donato). This bill requires the governing authority of a school corporation, charter school, and nonpublic school to establish a truancy prevention policy regarding certain students in kindergarten through grade 6. Urges the Legislative Council to assign to the appropriate interim study committee the task of studying certain matters concerning absenteeism. ISBA testified in support of this bill and it passed out of committee by a 13-0 vote.

Contact Your Area Legislators During Session

To find your legislators and contact information visit [HERE](#)

Thank you for your participation in the ISBA Legislative Action Network. Let's stand united to support sound K-12 education policy in Indiana!

Sincerely,



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