



Dear ISBA Members:

I hope this message finds you doing well, staying healthy, and off to a great start in the New Year! With the turn of the calendar year, a new state legislative session has commenced. Here is the **Week #1 ISBA Legislative Update**.

122nd Indiana General Assembly Underway

The first regular session of the 122nd Indiana General Assembly reconvened on Monday. It is the long session that by law must conclude by April 29. The two core duties of legislature this year will be to adopt a new two-year (“biennial”) state budget and to address redistricting of the legislative and congressional districts based on the 2020 decennial census. However, legislative leaders have signified that because of a delay in getting the census data and the desire to wait on the April state revenue forecast, they are willing, if necessary, to

postpone the end of session beyond this deadline. That would require the governor to call for a special session. Usually, a special session prompts criticism that business wasn't concluded in a timely fashion, but in this instance waiting to ensure the best available information to make sound decisions appears warranted and prudent in response to the pandemic.

House Republican Caucus Priorities

The House Republican Caucus, which maintains a super majority control of the House, released its 2021 legislative priorities that can be viewed [HERE](#). ISBA supports HB 1003 (see further bill details below) and likely to support HB 1008 (once we can view the bill and determine its content), but HB 1005 will be the bitter pill to swallow as it calls for expanded school choice. Please ask your area state representative for their views on this bill and explanation for its necessity. Neither HB 1005 nor HB 1008 is available online presently, so I have no additional details to offer. Please check back next week for further updates in this regard.

ISBA Bill Tracking List

The ISBA 2021 Bill Tracking List is now available [HERE](#). This bill list will continue to be updated daily with new information. ISBA uses Hannah News Services to auto-generate this report. This is a robust service that provides real-time updates as bill action occurs. ISBA offers this as a complimentary service to our members. Please use this as a valuable resource to track all K-12 education bills throughout the session.

House Bill 1003/Senate Bill 2

ISBA thanks Mr. Denny Costerison for his testimony on behalf of IASBO, ISBA, IAPSS, IUSA, IASP, ISRSA, and the Coalition of Growing and Suburban Schools in support of [HB 1003](#) and [Senate Bill 2](#). These bills address the February ADM count and provide appropriate accommodations for "virtual due

to COVID.” Each bill will result in 100% tuition support funding for students in this category, rather than an 85% funding amount. The House Ways and Means Committee passed HB 1003 by a 24-0 vote with no amendments to the bill. Senate Bill 2 was held for a vote after the public testimony on the bill received by the Senate Education & Career Development Committee. This committee will vote on SB 2 next week..

Senate Bill 1

ISBA testified in support of [Senate Bill 1](#) (Civil Immunity Related to COVID-19, Author Sen. Messmer) expressing the need for this protection given the fact that school corporations serve the community in various roles, specifically as educators, as employers, and as community centers. Given these roles and the large number of people in school buildings and on school property at any one time, the possibility of several lawsuits alleging exposure to COVID-19 is great and defending each of them would be a strain on a school corporation’s limited financial resources. While school corporations have insurance policies, there are concerns about the extent of the available coverage and what claims will be paid or not paid. In light of the numerous decisions that are made by school officials in an effort to keep everyone safe, this legislation is needed to protect school corporations.

State House Day

Please mark your calendar for the **3rd Annual ISBA State House Day on February 9**. This is a critical session for the future of K-12 education, and we invite your active participation in grassroots advocacy. We are delighted to provide you with direct access to the key legislative leaders as a part of our State House Day agenda:

- 9:00 a.m. 2021 session legislative briefing and ISBA agenda report with Terry Spradlin, Executive Director

- 10:00 a.m. Caucus Leaders Panel: Speaker Todd Huston; President Pro Tempore Rod Bray; Representative GiaQuinta, House Democrat Leader; and Senator Greg Taylor, Senate Democrat Leader; this will include an audience Q&A session
- 11:00 a.m. Education Committees' Leaders Panel: Representative Bob Behning, Chairman of House Education; Representative Ed Delaney Democrat Education Committee Member; Senator Jeff Raatz, Chairman of the Senate Education & Career Development Committee; and, Senator Eddie Melton, Democrat Education & Career Development Committee
- Afternoon: Please request a Zoom or phone meeting with your area legislators to discuss priority K-12 bills discussed during the morning program. If legislators are not available, please send an email to advocate for the ISBA legislative priorities, especially adequate tuition support funding (at inflation of 1.2% or above)

This will be a completely virtual event via Zoom. We are asking the board legislative liaison **and** board president for every school board to attend. If either person cannot participate, please ask another representative from your school board to attend. Each school board may have two participants. This will be at no charge to attendees. Please register (no later than February 5) in Zoom by clicking this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qSpulxpgS16DNvRR79X73g

Please contact Brooke Orner at: borner@isba-ind.org if you need any assistance with registration.

Please do commence efforts to reach out to your area legislators to (re-)introduce yourself and offer your service as a trusted resource on K-12 public education issues during the session and on an ongoing basis. Take the

opportunity now to begin advocating for the [ISBA 2021 Legislative Priorities](#).
Thank you!

Sincerely,

Terry Spradlin

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