



**Dear ISBA Members:**

Here is your **Week #10 ISBA Legislative Update**. Six weeks to go for the session to adjourn sine die. It was a relatively quiet week with few bills of significance moving along in the bill process. No doubt next week will be a busier!

#### **ISBA Bill Tracking List**

To view the ISBA Bill Tracking List, click [HERE](#).

#### **Key K-12 Education Bill Activity**

**[SB 2](#) Funding for virtual instruction in public schools**; Author: Senator Raatz; Sponsor: Representative Slager. Establishes a definition of "virtual instruction" for purposes of determining a school corporation's basic tuition support using the: (1) 2020 fall count; and (2) 2021 spring count; of average daily membership. This bill passed in the House on Monday by a third reading vote of 92-2. It is anticipated that the Senate will concur with the House amendments and then the bill will move to Governor Holcomb to sign into law. **ISBA supports this legislation as it provides full ADM funding for “virtual instruction due to COVID-19” this school year.**

[SB 54 FAFSA awards](#); Author: Senator Leising; Sponsor: Representative Behning. Provides that a school corporation may receive a FAFSA completion improvement award. Establishes a formula for calculating the award amount. **ISBA opposed SB 54** as it placed a significant burden on school personnel to ensure that the FAFSA is completed by students and their families or that the parents sign a waiver. As mentioned in a mid-week alert, this bill was amended in committee on Wednesday. The House Education Committee stripped all parental mandates and FAFSA completion monitoring by schools from the bill, and instead, inserted an incentive formula that will provide state dollars to award school corporations for helping achieve higher FAFSA completion rates. ISBA always prefers the “carrot” rather the “stick” approach to legislative proposals. With the favorable amendment, the bill passed out of the committee by a 13-0 bipartisan vote. ISBA would like to thank the Indiana Association of School Principals, and Tim McRoberts, for their collaborative efforts in working with ISBA to lobby against the proposed mandates that were included in the bill.

[HB 1266 Education building and transportation authorities](#); Author: Representative Clere; Sponsor: Senator Donato. Requires the Department of Education to issue a request for information concerning the possible establishment of educational building authorities and educational transportation authorities that would operate K-12 school buildings, or other educational experience centers, and school bus transportation respectively. **ISBA opposes this bill** as its theoretical underpinning calls for the removal of the oversight of governing bodies of school corporations and the duty of school administrators from managing school facilities and transportation to privatize these services. There is no evidence to believe a separate quasi-governmental or for-profit entity created in each county can manage these aspects of K-12 education more efficiently and this would only increase government bureaucracy and inefficiencies. This bill was heard in the Senate Education and Career Development Committee on Wednesday. ISBA offered joint testimony on behalf of IASBO as well in opposition to the bill. In addition, IAPSS, Superintendent Jim Hanna (Rossville), and ISTA opposed the bill. **Please call your state senator and ask that they oppose this bill or send the bill to a subcommittee. See the call-to-action alert sent on Thursday with**

## **additional talking points against this bill.**

**SB 358 Vacant or Underutilized School Buildings**; Author: Senator Rogers; Sponsor: Rep. Behning. This bill requires school corporations to offer vacant and “underutilized” school buildings to charter schools for sale or lease for \$1. The definition of an underutilized building is generally a school building that is used at less than 50% of its capacity. Starting in the 2021-2022 school year, school corporations will have to report to the Department of Education the current use and current capacity of each of its buildings. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 30-16 and has been assigned to the House Education Committee. **ISBA opposes this bill** and contends that is unfair to taxpayers to give school buildings away and advising that the constitutionality of the current law is being litigated currently. **School board members need to contact their legislators to discuss the impact this bill would have on your school corporation.**

**HB 1384 Civics Education**; Author: Representative Cook; Sponsor: Senator Raatz. This bill establishes the Indiana civic education commission and charges the commission with making recommendations to the General Assembly, the State Board of Education, and the Department of Education regarding civics education. The bill requires each school corporation, charter school, and state accredited nonpublic school to require each student in grade 6, 7, or 8 to successfully complete one semester of a civics education course. **ISBA testified in favor of the bill.** This bill passed out of the Senate Education & Career Development Committee on Wednesday by a 13-0 bipartisan vote.

### **Grassroots Advocacy at Work**

Is your school board one of the nearly 100 school boards that have adopted a resolution against HB 1005 and SB 413? Please check the ISBA’s “ESA Is NOT Ok” webpage to see if your school corporation is listed: <https://www.isba-ind.org/esa-is-not-ok.html>. If your school board has adopted a resolution, but is not listed, please send a signed pdf copy of the resolution to Adam VanOsdol at: [avanosdol@isba-ind.org](mailto:avanosdol@isba-ind.org). If you haven’t yet adopted the resolution, please do so as soon as possible, even at your April board meeting. ISBA is aiming for 100% school board participation. Thank you!

Have you seen the Associated Press story with the headline: “**School Boards Push Back Against Indiana Voucher Expansions**” [HERE](#). Our messaging is permeating in regions and communities across the state. Thank you to the ISBA members who have engaged in grassroots advocacy engagement. Your efforts locally have been impressive, so “keep fighting the good fight!”

Have a joyful weekend.

Sincerely,



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