



Dear ISBA Members:

Week #13 of the budget session is now complete! Some of you were on spring break last week, so let me repeat the key dates and deadlines that remain for the session.

- Bills must be out of committees in the second chamber on Tuesday, April 11, in the House of Representatives, and on Thursday, April 13, in the Senate.
- Look for the Senate Appropriations Committee to vote on the Senate Republican version of HB 1001, the state biennial budget, on Thursday, April 13. This will be the third version of the state budget for the session, following the introduction of HB 1001 (the Governor's budget) and then the House Republicans' version was next in the bill process. The fourth version of the budget bill will be the last.
- Before the final 2-year budget emerges, there will be issuance of an updated state revenue forecast by a committee of economists along with the fiscal analysts of each caucus. We are hopeful that this forecast will have an improved outlook for Indiana's economy and revenue stream, especially in Fiscal Year 2025, of which the tuition support funding formula includes just a 2% increase presently.

- The third reading deadline of bills in the second chamber will be Monday, April 17, in the House, and Tuesday, April 18 in the Senate.
- The conference committee process follows the third reading deadline. A conference committee is made up of two members of each the House and Senate, typically the bill authors and sponsors, that convene to negotiate differences between bills that passed in both chambers but were substantially amended in the second chamber. If the conference committee can agree on compromise language for the bill they discuss, a conference committee report is adopted, and it becomes the final version of the bill.

Key Bill Activity for Week #13

Here is a summary of bills that were discussed yesterday in the House and Senate education committees.

House Education Committee:

SB 72 Reporting on School Curriculum (Author: Sen. Leising) was heard in the House Education Committee on Wednesday. The bill requires schools to report to the Department of Education information regarding whether the schools provide instruction on cursive writing. Two amendments were presented. The **first amendment** would require the Department of Education, when revising and updating academic standards, to consider the skills, knowledge, and practices that are necessary to understand and utilize emerging technologies as well as the skills, knowledge, and practices that may be rendered obsolete by emerging technologies. The amendment was adopted by a 9-1 vote. The **second amendment**, which was taken by consent, requires the State Board of Education to create a process that allows a student who is presently enrolled in high school to retake any class that the student took as a virtual class during the 2019 through 2022 school years because of the COVID public health emergency. If a student elects to retake any such class, the student must receive full credit for the class and the grade earned by the student must replace the grade the student received when the student took the class virtually. As a result of the testimony by Chris Lagoni, Executive Director for the Indiana Rural and Small Schools Association, and whether the required process would also impact a student's class rank and eligibility for

valedictorian and/or salutatorian awards, the chair elected to hold the bill so that these issues could be resolved. The Committee will vote on the amended bill on Monday, April 10, 8:30 a.m.

SB 380 Various Education Matters (Author: Sen. Raatz) was heard in the House Education Committee on Wednesday. The bill requires schools to post graduation rates on their websites, limits the number of graduation waivers that can be included in the calculation of the graduation rate, and allows a school board to adopt a policy concerning student dress code or distracting behavior. Two amendments were presented. The **first amendment** removed the language regarding the calculation of the graduation rate (the author and sponsor of the bill agreed to amend the language into HB 1635). This amendment was taken by consent. The **second amendment** added provisions from SB 12 regarding materials harmful to minors. The language presented yesterday would require school boards to adopt a policy to (1) publish each school's online public access catalogue on the website of each school and (2) allow a parent/guardian of a student enrolled in the school or a resident of the school corporation to submit a request to remove material from the school library that is obscene or harmful to minors. The policy must include an appeal to the school board. The amendment would also require a prosecutor to consider whether a parent/guardian or resident utilized these procedures before filing any criminal charges against a school employee. Lastly, the amendment removes the legal defenses in statute that are currently available to a person charged with dissemination of materials harmful to minors. The Committee heard over four hours of testimony on the second amendment. Several parents testified in support of the language, while librarians, representatives from the Indiana Federation of Libraries, representatives of teacher organizations, and ISBA testified against the amendment. The testimony in opposition to the amendment focused on the removal of the legal defenses and the concern that school employees and school board members could be prosecuted for decisions made pursuant to the required policy. There was no vote on the amendment. The Committee will possibly vote on the second amendment, or a new one that may emerge, and then vote on the bill next Monday.

Note: the House Education Committee will meet for the final time this

session on Monday, April 10, 8:30 a.m., House chambers to amend and vote on SB 72 and SB 380, and then hear public testimony, discuss, amend, and vote on SB 486.

Senate Education & Career Development Committee:

The Senate Education & Career Development Committee met for the final time this session on Wednesday and moved eight bills out of committee, including HB 1002, HB 1558, HB 1635, HB 1637, HB 1177, HB 1483, HB 1492, and HB 1638. This summary spotlights four of the eight bills.

HB 1002 Education and Workforce Matters (Author: Representative Goodrich) creates Career Scholarship Accounts (CSAs) with \$5,000/student to use to enroll in work-based learning (WBL) or modern youth apprenticeship programs. After public testimony and committee discussion on HB 1002 last week, a **major amendment** was adopted yesterday by consent of the committee to significantly streamline the bill. Several provisions were stricken from the bill including the mandatory 30-minute annual meeting for juniors and seniors with an intermediary as well as the mandatory annual career fairs during school hours. In addition, the amendment removes the establishment of the Connecting Students with Careers Fund and adds a new Career Advising Grant Program and Fund, that will help fund grants to an approved intermediary or a "career advising provider." The core concept of the CSA program, that functions largely outside of CTE or area vocational programs provided by school corporations, remains intact in the amended bill.

HB 1483 Prohibiting Bullying in Schools (Author: Rep. V. Smith) was amended and passed out of the Senate Education and Career Development Committee on Wednesday by a vote of 11-0. The **amended bill** (1) requires the discipline rules on bullying to include a requirement to report bullying incidents to the parents of the victim and the alleged perpetrator in an expedited manner but no later than five business days after the incident is reported, (2) requires the rules to include provisions that allow a parent of a student to review any audiovisual materials that contain graphic sexual or violent content used in any bullying or suicide prevention program, and (3) allows the discipline rules to include provisions to determine the severity of the bullying incident and whether the incident warrants a

transfer of the victim or alleged perpetrator to another school in the school corporation. The bill is eligible for second reading on the floor of the Senate on Monday.

HB 1635 Various Education Matters (Author: Representative Behning) is a bill that addresses the definition of “graduation” and amends the graduation rate calculation. In addition, the bill requires the State Board of Education to develop high school math courses (Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry) that include real-world application and project-based and inquiry-based learning. Another provision provides that, for purposes of determining a school's or school corporation's graduation rate, not more than one percent of a school's or school corporation's graduation cohort that receives an alternate diploma may be counted as having graduated. The committee moved **three amendments** to the bill, with the most significant provision limiting the number of students that can graduate through a waiver process to 9% in the 2023-2024 school year, 6% in the 2024-2025 school year, and 3% for each school year after June 30, 2025. Finally, another key change specifies that not more than 1% of a school's or school corporation's graduation cohort that receives an alternate diploma may be counted as having graduated. This bill now moves to the floor of the House of Representatives and will be eligible for second reading amendments on Monday.

HB 1638 Education Matters (Author: Representative Behning) incorporates the recommendations adopted by the Interim Study Committee on Education. The bill repeals the school corporation's annual performance report and annual financial report laws and the performance-based awards law. The bill requires the Department of Education to establish or license for use of an online platform for providing certain teacher training programs. ISBA recommended many of these regulatory relief measures to the Interim Study Committee on Education, and for these reasons SUPPORTS HB 1638. The bill will be eligible for a second reading a possible amendments on Monday on the floor of the Senate.

Other Bill Activity

HB 1005 Housing (Author: Representative Miller) Among many provisions, this bill removes the threshold conditions for establishing

a residential housing development program and a tax increment allocation area for the program, including the condition that the governing body of each school corporation affected by the program pass a resolution approving the program before the program may go into effect. These provisions were amended into the bill by the Senate Appropriations Committee last week. This language was previously included in Senate Bill 300 which ISBA has opposed. However, SB 300 will die in the House Ways & Means Committee. Senator Holdman and Senator Rogers resurrected language from SB 300 through this amendment to HB 1005. HB 1005 was voted out of the Senate on Tuesday by a [32-16 vote](#) (Roll Call #301). ISBA thanks the senators who voted against the bill and ask members to do the same.

Bill Tracking List

Checkout the always new ISBA Bill Tracking List [HERE](#). As action happens on any bill on the Tracking List, it is updated in real-time.

Thank you for reading the ISBA Weekly Legislative Update and your efforts and contributions to engage in the ISBA Legislative Action Network!

Sincerely,



Terry Spradlin

Executive Director

Indiana School Boards Association

One North Capitol Avenue, Suite 1215

Indianapolis, IN 46204-2225

(Office) 317-639-3588

(Mobile) 317-750-2056



This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Indiana School Boards Association · 1 N Capitol Ave Ste 1215 · Indianapolis, IN 46204-2095 · USA