



Dear ISBA Members:

This was an unusual week with the Indiana General Assembly canceling all scheduled activity (committee meetings and floor action) in response to possible threats to state capitols across the nation in protest to President Biden's inauguration. This has allowed The ISBA legislative team to complete our bill tracking list and identify key bills that are supportive of the ISBA Legislative Priorities, as well as those bills adversarial to the foundation of K-12 public education. Here is the **Week #3 ISBA Legislative Update** with timely updates on these and other issues. ***Please read all the way to the bottom to respond to the first call-to-action alert of the session.***

ISBA Bill Tracking List

There are presently 174 bills on the ISBA Bill Tracking List [HERE](#). This bill list will continue to be updated daily with new information. Please let me know if you identify any important bills not found on the ISBA Tracking List, and I will be sure to add them.

ISBA Priority Bill List

ISBA has identified the following bills that align with our Legislative Priorities or are bills initiated by the Association:

- HB 1001, State Budget, Author: Representative Brown
- HB 1002, Civil Immunity Related to COVID-19, Author: Rep. Jerry Torr
- HB 1003, Tuition Support, Author: Rep. Hal Slager (Note: This bill addresses ADM count and funding for virtual instruction due to COVID-19)
- HB 1008, Student Learning Recovery Grant Program, Author: Rep. Martin Carbaugh (Note: ISBA will be seeking amendments to the eligibility requirements in this bill)
- HB 1186, Early Graduation and ADM Counts, Author: Rep. Bob Cherry
- HB 1187, Tax Increment Financing, Author: Rep. Bob Cherry
- HB 1363, Controlled Projects, Author: Rep. Jeff Thompson
- HB 1437, Electronic Communication at Public Meetings, Author: Rep. Tony Cook
- SB 1, Civil Immunity Related to COVID-19, Author: Senator Mark Messmer
- SB 2, Funding for Virtual Instruction in Public Schools, Author: Senator Jeff Raatz
- SB 333, Education Matters, Author: Senator Jeff Raatz (Note: this bill establishes a new process for setting school board member per diem and was initiated by ISBA).

- SB 369, Electronic Meetings and Signatures, Author: Senator Linda Rogers

*To learn more details about these bills, click [HERE](#).

State House Day

Where can you gain access to the Speaker, President Pro Tempore, and the Chairs of the education committees with real time session information and a Q&A simultaneously? **The 3rd Annual ISBA State House Day on February 9, *that's where!*** The 2021 session is a critical one for the future of K-12 education, and we invite your active participation in grassroots advocacy. 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. **New: Superintendents are welcome to attend with their board representatives.** If either person (legislative liaison and board president) 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.

Action Alert #1 – PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL YOUR STATE SENATOR THIS WEEKEND TO OPPOSE SB 124

[Senate Bill 124](#), First Day of School, Author: Senator Dennis Kruse. This bill prohibits public schools from beginning the school year prior to Labor Day beginning in the 2022-23 school year, with a few exceptions. **ISBA opposes this legislation** because it relinquishes local control and removes governing responsibility from the locally-elected school board to make calendar decisions that are based on the expert recommendations of the superintendent and staff, and their understanding of the interests and needs of students, families and the broader community they represent. This change would be quite disruptive to the ability to conclude the first semester at the winter break, thus preventing early graduations and enrollments in higher education or military service. Conversely, it will lengthen the school year into June creating labor shortage issues for those same industries advocating for this change and posing conflicts child labor laws. Scheduling semester final exams after the winter break presents challenges as well and is not as practical. There are numerous reasons to oppose this legislation!

Please call your area senator this weekend or prior to Wednesday to ask that they OPPOSE SB 124! In addition, please call or email any of the following Republican members of the Senate Education and Career Development Committee:

- Senator Jeff Raatz, Chairman: Senator.Raatz@iga.in.gov; 317-233-0930
- Senator John Crane, Vice Chairman: s24@iga.in.gov; 317-232-9984
- Senator Scott Baldwin: Senator.Baldwin@igai.in.gov; 317-232-9533
- Senator Brian Buchanan: Senator.Buchanan@iga.in.gov; 317-234-9426
- Senator Stacey Donato: senator.donato@iga.in.gov; 317-232-9493
- Senator Dennis Kruse: Senator.Kruse@iga.in.gov; 317-233-0930
- Senator Jean Leising: Senator.Leising@iga.in.gov; 317-232-9493
- Senator Linda Rogers: Senator.Rogers@iga.in.gov; 317-234-9443
- Senator Kyle Walker: Senator.Kyle.Walker@iga.in.gov; 317-232-9541

To find your area senator and their contact information, go to: <https://www.isba-ind.org/legislator-contact-information.html>

Thank you!

Sincerely,

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