



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 123<sup>RD</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY, MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2024

### Week Eight Overview

This marked the last week for bills to move out of their respective committee. Bills that did not pass a committee vote, are now considered “dead”. However, there are still opportunities for legislators to move the language forward. Language from “dead” bills may be eligible to be amended in other bills, either through 2<sup>nd</sup> reading on the Senate floor, or in conference committees. We will discuss conference committees more at the end of this newsletter. The House 2<sup>nd</sup> reading deadline also passed this week. 3<sup>rd</sup> reading deadline for the House will be on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. For the Senate, the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading deadline will be on March 4<sup>th</sup>, while their 3<sup>rd</sup> reading deadline will be on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. The General Assembly has until March 14<sup>th</sup> to sine die, however, they are still planning on ending this session by next Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Committee Highlights

#### HEALTH

**Senate Health and Provider Services:** As the legislative session nears the end, a few final bills were heard in committee this week. HB 1332, Department of Insurance Regulatory Matters – Sen. Scott Baldwin (R – Noblesville), addresses various insurance regulations within the Indiana Department of Insurance (IDOI). Provisions of HB 1332 would allow a third-party administrator to designate Indiana as the home state for conducting business, among other things. HB 1332 passed in committee (11-0).

Both 1327, Health and Insurance Matters – Rep. Donna Schaibley (R – Carmel) and SB 45, Trauma Informed Care – Sen. Michael Crider (R – Greenfield), are dead since neither were heard in committee this week. However, HB 1327 language remains to be seen additionally in further bills this session.

**Senate Appropriations:** Senators gathered in this committee to hear HB 1426, Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives – Sen. Susan Glick (R – LaGrange). HB 1426 proposes that a maternity unit must offer a woman who is eligible for or is already receiving Medicaid assistance the option of having a long acting reversible subdermal contraceptive implanted after the delivery, and before the woman is discharged. Rep. Rita Fleming (D – Jeffersonville) testified that the bill addresses maternal health, the issue of a declining workforce, infant mortality rates, and maternal mortality rates. However, Sen. Shelli Yoder (D – Bloomington), voiced concerns that this bill could lead to the creation of a two-tiered system of hospital contraceptive theory, as it only provides the option for a subdermal contraceptive, excluding IUD's. HB 1427 passed in committee (10-3).

### EDUCATION

**House Education:** On Tuesday, only one education bill was heard by lawmakers, SB 282, Various Education Matters – Rep. Martin Carbaugh (R – Fort Wayne). SB 282 works to improve several facets of education including protecting students from hazing and furthering career and technical education opportunities. At the age of 16, students will have the opportunity to take firefight and EMT training, preparing them for certification by the time they graduate. However, the core of the bill addresses absenteeism in public schools. Amendment #17 adopted in committee, would prohibit habitually truant students from participating in extracurricular activities in grades K-6. In addition, Amendment #16 would require that if a student is truant, the school district would have to make a report to the local prosecutor. Amended SB 282 passed in committee (9-2).

**Senate Appropriations:** This committee heard education bills this week as well. Priority bill HB 1001, Education and Higher Education Matters – Sen. Jeff Raatz (R – Richmond), proposes that an annual grant amount awarded under the Career Scholarship Account program may be used for costs related to obtaining a driver's license following certain conditions. In addition, the timeframe for parents to utilize the Career Scholarship Account (CSA) increases from 7 to 30 days, providing more flexibility during the application period. Democrats explained that their opposition to HB 1001 was due to the lack of data to justify the expansion of funds in an Education Scholarship Account during a non-budget year. HB 1001 passed in committee (11-3).

HB 1004, Thirteenth Check – Sen. Fady Qaddoura (D – Indianapolis), would provide a thirteenth check to Indiana state teachers, public employees, or state police. SB 1004 passed in committee (23-0).

Lastly, Sen. Raatz introduced HB 1243, Various Education and Workforce Related Matters, in committee. HB 1243 contains many components that work to improve and reshape education. A few of these improvements include teacher compensation,

computer science coursework, and flexibility by the Department of Education (DOE) to look at different diploma designations. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education, testified in committee that HB 1243 would redesign ILEARN standards by providing teachers and families more actionable data on students throughout the year. Sen. Qaddoura opposed HB 1243, as he believed this bill excluded social workers and the need to to widen funding. HB 1243 passed in committee (12-1)

### **GOVERNMENT**

**Senate Judiciary:** While the Local Government committees did not meet this week, several bills that impact local government were heard in other committees. On Wednesday, the Senate Judiciary Committee heard HB 1003, Administrative Law – Sen. Cyndi Carrasco (R – Indianapolis). Amendment #12 was heard and adopted. This Amendment intends to leave questions of fact for the court to decide without deference to findings previously made by the agency. The amendment passed 8-3. As amended, HB 1003 would make the Office of Administrative Law Proceedings the ultimate authority in any administrative proceeding under its jurisdiction. Among a variety of other things concerning administrative law practices, the bill would outline procedures regarding non-final orders and procedures to file objections to final orders. Ultimately, the bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee (8-3). Those voting “no” on the bill citing the need, in some cases, to defer to the expertise of departmental agencies of the state.

**House Roads and Transportation:** The committee met on Tuesday morning to amend and vote on SB 52, Prohibition on Use of Dedicated Lanes – Rep. Julie McGuire (R – Indianapolis). The committee heard over 3 hours of testimony last week. Chair Pressel allowed limited testimony on the bill before its final passage this week as well, including emotional testimony against SB 52 from Rep. Blake Johnson (D – Indianapolis), who represents the area that the bill would most immediately effect. SB 52 passed committee as amended (9-4), with all Democrats opposed. On Thursday morning, officials with the office of Speaker Todd Huston (R – Fishers) announced that SB 52 would not move forward, and is now dead. Rather, Speaker Huston met with IndyGo and came to a negotiated deal, agreeing that the city of Indianapolis would incorporate more general-purpose lanes of traffic in its Blue Line project proposal.

**House Public Policy:** SB 149, Tobacco – Rep. Joanna King (R – Middlebury) was heard in committee on Tuesday. Amendment #12 was introduced by Rep. Stephen Bartels (R – Eckerty) and was adopted by consent. Among other things, the amendment specifies an employee of a certificate holder must hold either a valid driver's license, or identification card issued by the State of Indiana or another state, to sell tobacco products. It also allows an employee who is unable to show a driver's license or

identification card to an excise officer to provide such documentation within five days. Amendment #12 also permits the ATC to impose a civil penalty on the certificate holder if an employee fails to produce this evidence. As amended, SB 149 would provide that a tobacco sales certificate—applied for after June 30, 2024—is valid for a term of one year and has an application fee of not more than \$100. The bill also provides that a minor who falsely represents their age to purchase or attempt to purchase a tobacco product commits a Class C misdemeanor. Further, an individual who recklessly, knowingly, or intentionally sells a tobacco product without a valid certificate commits a Class C infraction. Lastly, the bill would revoke the tobacco sales certificate of a tobacco and vaping business that illegally operates within 1,000 feet of the property of an elementary or secondary school. The bill passed committee (9-0) and has been moved to second reading in the House.

**Senate Environmental Affairs:** The committee met on Monday morning to discuss HB 1352, Inspection of Residential Onsite Sewage Systems – Sen. Gary Byrne (R – Byrneville). HB 1352 was amended by consent prior to discussion of the bill. Amendment #6, authored by Rep. Robert Morris (R – Fort Wayne), would further clarify when a local health department or local unit of government may inspect an onsite sewage system, including if the owner of the property requests an inspection or if a complaint is filed with the local health department. HB 1352, as amended, would require an owner who installs an onsite sewage system to notify the local health department, and would establish when a local health department and other local officers may inspect a residential onsite sewage system. HB 1352 passed committee as amended, (11-0).

### **BUDGET & TAXES**

**House Ways and Means:** The committee met on Tuesday morning to amend and vote on several bills that have potential fiscal impacts for the State of Indiana. SB 190, State Disaster Relief Fund – Rep. Michelle Davis (R – Whiteland) proposes expanding the permissible uses of the State Disaster Relief Fund to include public assistance to cities and towns, even those who are already receiving federal funding, and individual households. Several amendments were proposed, but Chairman Jeff Thompson (R – Lizton) chose not to offer them. SB 190 passed committee (20-0), and moved to the House Floor for second reading, where it was ordered engrossed.

SB 256, State Funds – Chair Thompson had 12 amendments adopted by consent during discussion of the bill. As amended, SB 256 proposes raising the maximum asset limit or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to \$8,000, and would provide a tax exemption on feminine hygiene products. Changes also include adding a provision to the bill that would prevent Indiana cities, towns, and counties from declaring cities in adversarial foreign countries as sister cities. The bill also would require the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) to present a

report to the Budget Committee that includes a forecast of enrollment and costs for Medicaid, as well as a plan for monitoring expenses. Language from HB 1156 was amended into SB 256, after it failed to get a hearing in Senate Health and Public Policy. This language, crafted by Rep. Robb Greene (R – Shelbyville) would require FSSA to prepare and submit a report concerning data on the provision of applied behavior analysis services in the Medicaid program. Finally, the amended bill would require two non-voting members with specialized Medicaid program experience to be added to the Medicaid Advisory Committee, and would require landlords to accept third-party rent assistance from nonprofits and government entities unless the rental agreement expressly denies it. SB 256 passed committee as amended, (20-0).

SB 228, Various Tax Matters – Chair Thompson was the final bill to be heard by committee members after being held last week. SB 228 proposes, among other things, amending the economic threshold for sales tax nexus to remove the number of sales transactions in the state as one of the two current triggers that require retail merchants to collect and remit sales tax. The bill also would allow the Department of Revenue (DOR) to disclose a taxpayer's name and other personal identification information with a tax preparer or tax preparer software provider in cases where the department suspects a fraudulent return has been filed. Sheriffs would also be required to transfer fund collected through executions of tax warrants electronically through the Department of Revenue's payment portal. SB 228 passed committee (20-0).

**Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy:** The committee met on Tuesday morning to address several bills from the House that have fiscal components. HB 1120, Property Taxes – Sen. Travis Holdman, Chair (R – Markle) was amended by consent prior to discussion of the bill. Amendment #32, authored by Sen. Scott Baldwin (R – Noblesville) proposes various changes to the bill, including proposing the removal of excess residential assessment, proposing extending the 4% cap on operating referendum taxes levied by school corporations, and proposing requiring the State and Local Tax Review Force to study qualifications for civil taxing units to be eligible for levy increases, among other things. As amended, HB 1120, among other things, would increase the assessed value limit for the Disabled Veteran Property Tax Deduction to \$240,000, and would specify that a political subdivision's total debt service tax rate does not include a tax rate approved by voter for a referendum debt service tax levy. The bill would also allow a redevelopment commission to expend revenues from its allocation fund for police and fire services on capital expenses and operating expenses, and would allow a township that transitions to separate firefighting and emergency services funds from previously combined funds to approve a transfer of the remaining cash balance to each separate fund. HB 1120 passed committee as amended (13-0).

HB 1121, Local Income Taxes – Chair Holdman was the final bill voted on by the committee Tuesday morning. Amendment #11 was adopted by consent prior to discussion of the bill. Amendment #11, authored by Chair Holdman, would, among other things, remove the Mile Square local income tax (LIT) provision that was added in anticipation of the Economic Enhancement District (EED) for Indianapolis being repealed. HB 1199, Economic Enhancement District – Sen. Scott Baldwin (R – Noblesville) passed its third reading on Thursday (32-7). HB 1199 was amended in Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy, and would no longer repeal Indianapolis’ EED, but rather create guidelines for a legislative body to enact one. Chairman Holdman also proposed a chairman’s amendment during the bill’s discussion, which was adopted by consent. The chairman’s amendment would add a 20-year sunset for the Knox County Innkeeper’s Tax. After supportive testimony, HB 1121 passed committee as amended, (14-0).

### CRIMINAL LAW

**House Courts and Criminal Code:** Continuing from last week’s hearing, the committee heard SB 232, Statewide 911 System – Rep. Bradford Barrett (R – Richmond). Last week, Amendment #3 was introduced by the Committee Chair, Rep. Wendy McNamara (R – Evansville) and removed language requiring review by the House Budget Committee. This week, Amendment #4 was brought by Rep. McNamara providing that certain sentencing enhancements only apply to the crime of false informing when they involve a report that a person is dangerous. Both amendments were adopted by consent by the committee. Amended, the bill would remove references to “enhanced 911 service” and would, among other things, create punitive measures for false 911 calls. For example, a false informing offense would be a Class A misdemeanor, but if false informing resulted in serious bodily injury or death, then the offense would become a Level 5 felony. The intent of this bill is to reduce instances of falsely sending law enforcement officers to a situation: a phenomena known as “swatting.” As amended, SB 232 passed committee (11-0).

SB 170, Crimes and Election Workers – Rep. Jennifer Meltzer (R – Shelbyville) was heard in committee. Amendment #3 was introduced in committee and modifies the definition of “election workers”, removing the Secretary of State and an employee of the election division, in hopes of targeting the bill toward individuals working at polling locations. Additionally, the amendment requires that the obstruction or interference occur on Election Day or a day on which voting is permitted to occur before an absentee voter board. Amendment #3 was adopted by consent. As amended, the bill would make it a Level 6 felony to intentionally influence an election worker, to obstruct or interfere with an election worker, or to injure an “election worker” as defined in the bill. Further, the offender must have the intent to interfere with the election when interfering with an election worker for their actions to be criminal. The bill passed committee as amended (11-0).

SENATE

This week, the following bills were among those amended upon second reading in the Senate:

HB 1042, Transition to Teaching Scholarships – Sen. Jeff Raatz (R – Richmond)

- Amendment #1 (Sen. Brian Buchanan, R – Lebanon) defines “teacher” in the bill as a person who is employed by a public school or an eligible school as a full-time classroom teacher whose primary responsibility is the instruction of students; adopted by consent.
- Amendment #2 (Sen. Raatz) requires that recipients of the teaching scholarship should be prioritized by members of a household with less than \$100,000 in annual income; adopted by consent.

HB 1047, Sexual Offenses – Sen. Cyndi Carrasco (R – Indianapolis)

- Amendment #1 (Sen. Mike Bohacek, R – Michiana Shores) aligns the criminal component of the bill with the existing civil language in state statute; adopted by consent.
- Amendment #2 (Sen. Aaron Freeman, R – Indianapolis) provides the bill excludes images distributed by news reporting or entertainment mediums in protection of the First Amendment. The amendment also specifies the image has to resemble the image of the individual in the bill; adopted by consent.

HB 1084, Privacy of Firearms and Financial Transactions – Sen. Scott Baldwin (R – Noblesville)

- Amendment #2 (Sen. Baldwin) adds firearm retailers as a protected class as an entity that may keep a list of firearm owners; adopted by consent.

HB 1104, School Safety – Sen. Spencer Deery (R – West Lafayette)

- Amendment #3 (Sen. Andrea Hunley, D – Indianapolis) prohibits the use of projectiles or sensory components for trainings or drills without the written consent of participants; adopted by consent.

HB 1121, Local Income Taxes – Sen. Travis Holdman (R – Markle)

- Amendment #1 (Sen. Holdman) harmonizes language from SB 238 to avoid the bill going to conference committee; adopted by consent.

HB 1133, Use of Digitally Altered Media in Elections – Sen. Spencer Deery (R – West Lafayette)

- Amendment #1 (Sen. Deery) clarifies that even if a form of media does not specifically say to vote one way or another, the digitally altered media may be a violation if its purpose is to injure a candidate or influence the election’s outcome; adopted by consent.

HB 1135, Cosmetology Apprenticeships – Sen. Linda Rogers (R – Granger)

- Amendment #2 (Sen. Rogers) removes the 100-hour requirement for an applicant to receive a beauty culture instructor license; adopted by consent.

HB 1137, Religious Instruction and School Chaplains – Sen. Jeff Raatz (R – Richmond)

- Amendment #1 (Sen. Stacey Donato, R – Logansport) allows a parent of a student to receive notification any time a student requests to speak with a school chaplain; adopted by consent.

HB 1158, County Contracts – Sen. Holdman

- Amendment #2 (Sen. Holdman) allows the county executive to adopt an ordinance to delegate additional authority to approve contracts to other county officers and employees; adopted by consent.

HB 1160, Civil Proceeding Advance Payment Contracts and Commercial Litigation Financing – Sen. Liz Brown (R – Fort Wayne)

- Amendment #2 (Sen. Brown) returns the definition of “foreign person” in the bill to the original definition in state statute; adopted by consent.

HB 1197, Alcohol and Tobacco Commission – Sen. Ron Alting (R – Lafayette)

- Amendment #1 (Sen. Alting) modifies language in the bill adding public parks and recreational areas as protected venues as outlined in the bill; adopted by consent.

HB 1199, Economic Enhancement District – Sen. Scott Baldwin (R – Noblesville)

- Amendment #1 (Sen. Baldwin) requires the clerk of the city-county council in Marion County to mail a copy of the notice to each owner of property within the Economic Enhancement District. The notice must contain the boundaries of the proposed district, a description of the proposed economic enhancement projects, the proposed formula for determining the percentage of the total benefit to be received by each parcel of real property, and the hearing date; adopted by consent.

HB 1240, Criminal Law Issues – Sen. Aaron Freeman (R – Indianapolis)

- Amendment #1 (Sen. Freeman) removes the provision where a juvenile court does not have jurisdiction over an individual when they are alleged to unlawfully carry a handgun. This amendment is intended to align the bill with state statute regarding constitutional carry; adopted by consent.

HB 1258, Mobile Retail Food Establishments – Sen. Tyler Johnson (R – Leo)

- Amendment #2 (Sen. Johnson) allows a local health department to require an annual fee of no more than \$200 to be paid with an application for the issuance or renewal of a mobile retail food establishment permit; adopted by consent.

HB 1265, Various Election Matters – Sen. Mike Gaskill (R – Pendleton)

- Amendment #3 (Sen. Gaskill) removes language saying the Attorney General must not have been subject to a disciplinary commission that resulted in the candidate’s disbarment or suspension from the practice of law without automatic reinstatement for at least one year before the election to qualify as a candidate; adopted by consent.

HB 1328, Department of Local Government Finance – Sen. Eric Bassler (R – Washington)

- Amendment #4 (Sen. Bassler) states that the bill would apply to property assessments occurring after December 31, 2023; adopted by consent.

HB 1329, Local Government Matters – Sen. Scott Baldwin (R – Noblesville)



- Amendment #1 (Sen. Linda Rogers, R – Granger) provides a section of the bill applies only to property located in St. Joseph County containing a designated sole source aquifer; adopted by consent.

HB 1337, HOA Regulation of Beekeeping – Sen. Baldwin

- Amendment #1 (Sen. Baldwin) provides that a homeowner’s association may establish a 100 foot buffer zone around a property for property owners who have an allergy to bees; adopted by consent.

HB 1352, Inspection of Residential Onsite Sewage Systems – Sen. Gary Byrne (R – Byrnesville)

- Amendment #1 (Sen. Byrne) allows an officer or employee of a local health department may inspect residential onsite sewage systems and nonresidential onsite sewage systems; adopted by consent.

HB 1417, Agricultural Matters – Sen. Jean Leising (R – Oldenburg)

- Amendment #1 (Sen. Leising) removes Section 2 of the original bill. Thus, the bill mandates an economic impact study based on the findings of the lost farmland report; adopted by consent.

The House concurred with the Senate on the following bills, allowing the legislation to now be sent to the Governor’s desk upon signature of the Speaker of the House and Senate Pro Temp:

- SB 1, Reading Skills – Sen. Rogers; (29-16)
- SB 5, Lead Water Line Replacement and Lead Remediation – Sen. Eric Koch (R – Bedford); (45-0)
- SB 58; Restaurant Carryout Sales – Sen. Travis Holdman (R – Markle); (40-5)
- SB 132, Professions and Professional Services – Sen. Liz Brown (R – Fort Wayne); (45-0)
- SB 146, Youth Employment – Sen. Linda Rogers (R – Granger); (31-13)
- SB 172, Compensation for Victims of Violent Crime – Sen. Michael Crider (R – Greenfield); (43-0)
- SB 189, Locating and Recovering Wild Game – Sen. Scott Baldwin (R – Noblesville); (38-6)
- SB 202, State Educational Institution Matters – Sen. Spencer Deery (R – West Lafayette); (33-12)
- SB 215, Medicare Supplement Insurance – Sen. Kyle Walker (R – Indianapolis); (42-2)
- SB 247, Water and Wastewater Utility Infrastructure – Sen. Koch; (43-1)
- SB 253, Lake Michigan Rescue Equipment – Sen. Rodney Pol (D – Chesterton); (44-0)
- SB 270, Various Education Matters – Sen. Rogers; (31-14)

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The following Senate bills were among those amended upon second reading in the House:

SB 1, Reading Skills – Rep. Jake Teshka (R – South Bend)

- Amendment #3 (Rep. Teshka) removes the limitation on the number of assessments of reading screeners; adopted by consent.

SB 8, Higher Education Matters – Rep. Craig Snow (R – Warsaw)

- Amendment #1 (Rep. Behning, R – Indianapolis) further defines the requirement that the Department of Education (DOE) upload information about College Core courses to the Indiana Access Online Portal, as well as allows International Baccalaureate programs to be an option for graduation; adopted by consent.

SB 15, Military and Veteran Issues – Rep. Stephan Bartels (R – Eckerty)

- Amendment #1 (Rep. Bartels) adds United States Space Force to Indiana Code, shortens the residency requirement for an “eligible person” to 6 months, defines what constitutes as a “primary caregiver” for a veteran, and extends the excused absence amount for armed forces training to 15 days; adopted by consent.

SB 30, School Bus Stop Arm Violation Notification – Rep. Harold Slager (R – Schererville)

- Amendment #1 (Rep. Meltzer) requires the BMV to inform an individual registering a vehicle that recklessly passing a school bus is a Class A misdemeanor; removes the remainder of the bill; passed (62-29).

SB 33, Distributions of Public Safety Income Tax Revenue – Rep. Slager

- Amendment #1 (Rep. Thompson) requires that all revenue collected from the public safety income tax does not exceed 0.05%; adopted by consent.

SB 148, Workforce Data Collection – Rep. Martin Carbaugh (R – Fort Wayne)

- Amendment #2 (Rep. Carbaugh) amends the reporting requirements around direct service providers due to concerns from the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), and creates a governance team comprised of the Department of Workforce Development (DWD), the Department of Education (DOE), the Governor’s Cabinet, and the FSSA in order to ensure the DWD does not have administrative power over the Commission of Higher Education; adopted by consent.

SB 150, Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity – Rep. Matt Lehman (R – Berne)

- Amendment #3 (Rep. Lehman) provides that if a state agency enters into a contract with a person under which the state agency runs software on hardware owned or operated by this person, the Office of Technology shall ensure that the state agency fully complies with the licensing terms of all software run on the person’s hardware; adopted by consent.
- Amendment #2 (Rep. Behning, R – Indianapolis) creates guidelines for who shall serve on the Artificial Intelligence Task Force, as well as outlines the duties of the Artificial Intelligence Task Force; adopted by consent.

SB 169, Child Caring Institutions and Group Homes – Rep. Christopher Judy (R – Fort Wayne)

- Amendment #4 (Rep. Judy) amends various time frames within the bill; adopted by consent.

SB 202, State Educational Institution Matters – Rep. Robert Behning (R – Indianapolis)

- Amendment #1 (Rep. Behning) allows the Office of Administrative Law to issue opinions and rulings on behalf of the Commission of Higher Education; adopted by consent.

SB 211, Various Education Matters – Rep. Behning

- Amendment #1 (Rep. Behning) removes all language that would create a charter school corporation; adopted by consent.

SB 212, Various Education Matters – Rep. Behning

- Amendment #1 (Rep. Behning) removes language that references federal funds that would address learning language remediation, as it is already in another bill; adopted by consent.

SB 238, Innkeeper’s Tax – Rep. Alex Zimmerman (R – North Vernon)

- Amendment #2 (Rep. Thompson, R – Lizton) adds a sunset provision for respective innkeeper’s tax rate increases for Elkhart County and Knox County. Also adds provision for Knox County rate reversals if certain provisions have not been met; adopted by consent.

SB 252, Notice Publication and Indiana Stadium and Convention Building Authority – Rep. Doug Miller (R – Elkhart)

- Amendment #1 (Rep. D. Miller) extends definition of verifiable circulation of a newspaper to include website page view as reported by the newspaper’s website host provider, and adds an option to publish notice in a locality newspaper; adopted by consent.

SB 256, Fiscal Matters – Rep. Jeffery Thompson (R – Lizton)

- 11 amendments were adopted during SB 256’s second reading. Key amendments are listed below; please consult the [IGA Website](#) for a complete list of amendment details.
- Amendment #20 (Rep. Thompson) requires that at least 80% of the per diem reimbursement received from the Office for the Structured Family Caregiving Services be reimbursed back to the families receiving benefits; requires the Office of Family and Social Services (FSSA) to submit several reports by April 30, 2025 to the State Budget Committee; adopted by consent.
- Amendment #19 (Rep. Thompson) extends expiration date of the ability of a county to designate an Innovation Development District (IDD) until June 30, 2027; requires any newly established IDD to be reviewed by the State Budget Committee; allows IDD’s to be set up over existing Tax Increment Financing (TIF) procedures; adopted by consent.
- Amendment #10 (Rep. Ed DeLaney, D – Indianapolis) Requires the FSSA to submit a written report to the Medicaid Oversight Committee, the Budget Committee, and the Executive Director of the Legislative Services Agency

providing an explanation concerning the miscalculation in the Medicaid program forecast in 2023; passed (92-0).

- Amendment #18 (Rep. Brad Barrett, R – Richmond) inserts language that creates a task force to help with the transfer from fee-for-service to managed care in the long-term care space, and moves program enactment date to July 1; adopted by consent.

The House concurred with the Senate on the following bills, allowing the legislation to now be sent to the Governor’s desk upon signature of the Speaker of the House and Senate Pro Temp:

- HB 1026, Commission, Committee, and Board Administration – Rep. Karen Engleman (R – Georgetown); (89-0)
- HB 1106, Regulated Amusement Devices – Rep. Kendell Culp (R – Rensselaer); (61-30)
- HB 1123, Child Advocacy Centers – Rep. Dale DeVon (R – Granger); (87-0)
- HB 1138, Professional Licensing Matters – Rep. Lori Goss-Reaves (R – Marion); (87-0)
- HB 1231, Service of Safety Orders and Penalty Assessments – Rep. Chuck Goodrich (R – Noblesville); (87-0)
- HB 1284, Deposit Account Agreements – Rep. Kyle Pierce (R – Anderson); (66-20)
- HB 1369, Family and Juvenile Law Matters – Rep. Julie McGuire (R – Indianapolis); (88-0)

### Looking Ahead

As the 2024 legislative session begins to wind down, committees are wrapping up and sending bills to the floors of their respective chambers. The final day for third reading of Senate bills in the House is Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, and the final day for third reading of House bills in the Senate is Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. We are anticipating session to adjourn early this year with an estimated conclusion on March 8<sup>th</sup>, but the legislature may statutorily conduct business until Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

The final week will be spent hashing out any disagreements between chambers on bills. If a bill has been amended in the second half of session, it is returned to its chamber of origin for final consideration. If the members agree with the new amendments that have been added to the bill, a concurrence vote is taken to send the measure to the governor for his consideration. However, if the chamber does not agree with the changes, the bill is sent to a conference committee.

A conference committee is where amended bills are assigned for further debate. A conference committee is comprised of conferees—two members from each chamber, one Republican and one Democrat. The lawmakers then attempt to reconcile any

differences between the two chambers. If conferees come to an agreement, the agreed upon language is put into a conference committee report, which goes back to both chambers for approval. If both chambers approve of this new language, then the bill is then sent to the governor who may sign the bill into law.

Please feel free to contact a member of our legislative team should you have questions, need full copies of bills or amendments, or have any questions on matters pending before the Indiana General Assembly.

**Brian Burdick (Partner)**

Office: (317) 231-7393

Email: [brian.burdick@btlaw.com](mailto:brian.burdick@btlaw.com)

**Joe Loftus (Partner)**

Office: (317) 231-7213

Email: [joseph.loftus@btlaw.com](mailto:joseph.loftus@btlaw.com)

**Heather Harris (Partner)**

Office: (317) 231-6448

Email: [heather.harris@btlaw.com](mailto:heather.harris@btlaw.com)

**Brandt Hershman (Partner)**

Office: (202) 371-6374

Email: [brandt.hershman@btlaw.com](mailto:brandt.hershman@btlaw.com)

**Jake German (Partner)**

Office: (317) 231-7538

Email: [jacob.german@btlaw.com](mailto:jacob.german@btlaw.com)

**Lauren Box (Partner)**

Office: (317) 231-7289

Email: [lauren.box@btlaw.com](mailto:lauren.box@btlaw.com)

**Mike Moga (Associate)**

Office: (317) 231-6452

Email: [mike.moga@btlaw.com](mailto:mike.moga@btlaw.com)

**Makenzie Binford (Lobbyist)**

Office: (317) 231-9744

Email: [makenzie.binford@btlaw.com](mailto:makenzie.binford@btlaw.com)

**Alex Nettles (Intern)**

Office: (317) 231-7405

Email: [alex.nettles@btlaw.com](mailto:alex.nettles@btlaw.com)

**London Griesey (Intern)**

Office: (317) 261-7884

Email: [london.griesey@btlaw.com](mailto:london.griesey@btlaw.com)

**Hannah Walker (Intern)**

Office: (317) 261-7858

Email: [hannah.walker@btlaw.com](mailto:hannah.walker@btlaw.com)