



Session – Week 11  
March 21, 2025

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



## INCPAS Weekly Update

*Click here for current Bill Track:*

INCPAS	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/INCPAS2025">https://tinyurl.com/INCPAS2025</a>
INCPAS- TAX	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/INCPAS-TAX2025">https://tinyurl.com/INCPAS-TAX2025</a>

The legislative session continued during week 11 with several bills moving through committees in both chambers. There was no movement this week on [SB 1](#) as it remains on hold in the Ways and Means committee since its March 12 hearing, pending further amendments and discussion. Nevertheless, there was a large public property tax reform rally at the Statehouse on Tuesday in support of the introduced version of SB 1 where Governor Braun and several legislators spoke in favor of his vision of property tax reform reflected in the introduced version of the bill. In the Senate this week, the Tax and Fiscal Policy committee met on Tuesday morning to hear testimony on the budget bill, HB [1001](#). During the committee, 43 people testified on various aspects of the budget bill, and the committee held the bill for amendments and further discussion.

Also in the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy committee this week, [HB 1143](#) was heard again in the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy committee again on Tuesday this week, where the committee removed the language in the bill requiring the DOR to accept information and documents associated with tax returns electronically. During the brief discussion on the bill during the hearing, Chairman Holdman raised the point DOR was not prepared to accept documents electronically, even though the requirement would not take effect until 2027. There were no further amendments to the bill, and it passed out of the committee unanimously. On Thursday, HB 1143 was engrossed after second reading with no additional amendments and is eligible for final passage in the Senate on Monday, March 24.

As always, you can follow the bills we are tracking for you by clicking on the links above, and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

## Trails and Economic Development

[SB 468](#) allows St. Joseph County and South Bend to establish the Midwest Continental Divide Commission. The five-member commission is tasked with developing a connected trails system through St. Joseph County that leverages the Continental Divide, state parks, and nature preserves within the region.

The commission will be able to acquire, develop, and manage lands and facilities, issue bonds, and engage in public-private partnerships. In House Ways and Means, author Senator David Niezgodski (D-South Bend) said the commission would play an important role in the uniform development of the multi-jurisdictional project.

The area already attracts six million visitors annually, generating an economic impact of \$1.2 billion. The author hopes that by establishing this commission and developing trails, Indiana will strengthen its growing ecotourism industry while fostering economic growth and promoting public health initiatives.

The [Monon South Trail](#) project, a part of former Governor Holcomb's [Next Level Trails](#) initiative, demonstrates the impact of trails, which has sparked housing developments, restaurants, and other growth.

Though Next Level Trail funds are not included in the current proposed budget, Sen. Niezgodski stated revenue for the Midwest Continental Divide project will come from city and county dollars, as well as private sources.

SB 468 passed out of the Senate on third reading 49-0. The bill is now in the House Ways and Means Committee awaiting an amend and vote hearing.

## House Bills Move in the Senate

[HB 1660](#), authored by Rep. Beau Baird (R-Greencastle), was heard in the Senate Education Committee on Wednesday, March 19. The bill allows interested students to attend events offered by 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) through an excused absence from school. Such absences cannot exceed six days and students must remain in good academic standing to qualify. Testimony from the public expressed broad support for the inclusion of these programs under school absence requests. Lawmakers hope the bill will encourage the next generation of farmers, but the bill was held without a vote.

[HB 1615](#), authored by Rep. Shane Lindauer (R-Jasper) focuses on the effectiveness of Indiana's certified technology parks. It passed out of the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy

Committee on March 18 with a vote of 9-0.

Certified technology parks serve as incubators, seeking to foster the growth of technology-focused businesses within the state. The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) reports that Indianapolis has an expanding technology sector, with a 30% increase in tech companies over the last five years. The grant money allocated in the bill may attract more start-ups to the state.

Rep. Lori Goss-Reaves' (R-Marion) [HB 1572](#) passed through second reading on the Senate floor on Tuesday, March 18, with no amendments. It is now eligible for a final, third reading vote in the Senate.

The bill focuses on hearing aids and speech-language pathologists in the state. It allows for the sale of over-the-counter hearing aids by dealers who have either a certificate of registration or are a licensed audiologist.

If passed out of the Senate on third reading, it will head to the governor's desk and would be eligible for his signature, then becoming law.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### 2025 UPCOMING DEADLINES

#### HOUSE: Senate Bills

Committees: Thursday, April 10, 2025  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Monday, April 14, 2025  
3<sup>rd</sup> Reading: Thursday, April 15, 2025

#### SENATE: House Bills

Committees: Thursday, April 10, 2025  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Monday, April 14, 2025  
3<sup>rd</sup> Reading: Thursday, April 15, 2025

#### HOUSE & SENATE

Anticipated Sine Die: Thursday, April 24

Statutory Sine Die: Tuesday, April 29

### MIDPOINT STATISTICS

<u>Chamber</u> <u>Percent</u>	<u>Bills Filed</u>	<u>#Alive</u>	
House	708	185	26.2%
Senate	521	156	29.9%
Total	1,229	341	27.7%

### HOUSE BILL 1001

#### Ways and Means Committee Amendments:

Amendment 11 adopted 14-8  
Amendment 12 adopted by consent

#### House 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Amendments:

Amendment 19 adopted by voice vote

#### Tracking:

3.20.25 Testimony heard in Senate Appropriations

3.3.25: Referred to Senate Appropriations

2.21.25: Referred to Senate

2.20.25: Passed 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading on House Floor (66-28)

2.17.25: Passed House Ways and Means (14-7)



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