

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



INCPAS Weekly Update

Click here for current Bill Track:

INCPAS	https://tinyurl.com/INCPAS2025
INCPAS- TAX	https://tinyurl.com/INCPAS-TAX2025

As sine die draws one week closer, the General Assembly made some significant strides on the most prominent bills in week 14 of session. The biggest news of the week is that the House Republicans, the Senate Republicans, and the Governor have reached an agreement on property tax reform. On Thur sday, Governor Braun announced his support for the latest House version of SB 1. SB 1 provides significant business personal property tax reductions for many small businesses, a phased-in increase in certain deductions for homeowners, an increase of the maximum property tax credit for homeowners to \$300, and an increase in property tax credits for homeowners over 65. In addition, the bill softens the blow for local units of government by allowing them to replace some of their lost property tax revenues with local income taxes. Arguably the biggest losers in the bill are the school corporations because they are not able to use increased local income tax revenues to replace lost property tax revenue, and they will have to share more of their remaining property tax revenues with charter schools. On Thursday, the House passed its version of SB 1 on Thursday with a vote of 65-29, and the Senate has filed a concurrence on the bill signaling that it will likely support the House version.

The week of the 14th is a deadline week in the House and Senate for second reading amendments and third reading for all bills. Although the end of session is near, we do still have a little time to work on addressing INCPAS's concerns regarding the mandatory use of the PPOP IN portal for filing personal property taxes language in HB 1427. HB 1427 has been held on the second reading calendar in the Senate until Monday. If we are not able to get a second reading amendment to remove the language or delay its effective date, we are likely to have another opportunity to do so when the bill is expected to go to conference committee. We will keep you updated on our progress early next week. Also, we will be keeping a close eye on the DOR agency bill SB 453. This bill passed out of the House this week 93-1 with several

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amendments added to the bill in the House. The bill's author Sen. Baldwin filed his dissent of the bill this week and it will be going to conference committee to resolve the House and Senate versions. HB 1427 has become a Christmas tree bill for tax language, and we will be keeping a close eye on it in conference committee.

HEA 1143, the Society's pathways bill, which adds a third pathway to licensure for a baccalaureate with a concentration in accounting, passage of the Exam and two years of experience was signed by the Speaker of the House, Senate Pro Tem and President of the Senate. The bill is at the Governor's office awaiting Governor Braun's signature by the 17th. Once signed, Indiana will be the seventh state to pass similar legislation. The bill will be effective January 2, 2027.

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.

SB 1 Enters Final Stretch

Senate Bill (SB) 1 reappeared on the House schedule this week in the House Ways & Means Committee. The bill was significantly amended to add in SB 518, Sen. Linda Rogers' (R-Granger) school property tax bill, and parts of House Bill 1402, Rep. Jeff Thompson's (R-Lizton) local government finance bill.

Thirty-six second reading amendments were drafted, and seventeen were presented. But only one amendment, thirty-six, authored by Rep.

Thompson, was adopted into the bill. The amendment increased the supplemental homestead tax credit to 10% of assessed value with a \$300 maximum. Rep. Thompson, the bill sponsor, stated SB I would result in lower property tax bills for two-thirds of homeowners this year.

According to Rep. Thompson, rising property taxes stem from growing assessed values and increasing local government debt. His version of SB 1 begins shifting the state from a levy system to a rate-based system.

SB 1 creates stackable credits for fixed-income seniors and disabled veterans, decreases the local income tax rates, creates controls on local government debt and transparency, exempts small businesses from personal property tax, and saves farmers through various tax reforms.

In a rare event, Speaker Todd Huston (R–Fishers) spoke in support of the bill on second and third reading. While the Speaker stated the bill is delivering "historic taxpayer savings," House Democrats raised alarm bells.

Ranking Minority Member of the Ways & Means Committee, Rep. Gregory Porter (D-Indianapolis), criticized the bill during floor debate. He raised concerns over the estimated \$3 billion in lost revenue to local government.

Rep. Mike Andrade (D-Munster) added his concern that local units will be forced to raise income taxes to cover basic services.

SB 1 passed out of the House on Thursday, April 10, with a vote of 65-29. It will now return to the Senate author, Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle), to file a concurrence or dissent motion.

Conference Committee Process Underway

At this point, 133 bills have been amended by the second chamber. 42 of those have already been concurred upon by their author, received a majority vote in their chamber of origin, and sent to the Governor for final approval.

Several bills have already received dissent motions, and chamber leadership has begun assigning conference committee members. This indicates that conference committee meetings could start taking place as soon as next week.

In a conference committee, one member of each caucus from each chamber serves as the voting member, with several advisors. Once a final agreement is reached, the bill is referred to as a Conference Committee Report (CCR). Each CCR must receive a final majority vote in each chamber before going on to the Governor. You may see the bills eligible for conference committee here.

Governor's Action

Once a bill passes the legislature, it is referred to as an "Enrolled Act". All enrolled acts must be reviewed and approved by the Governor before they become law. Indiana's Governor has three actions he can take on legislation: sign into law, veto, or not sign and allow it to become law after seven days.

Enrolled acts do not automatically arrive on the Governor's desk the day they pass the legislature. Each one requires procedural signatures from leadership in both chambers, the Speaker of the House and President Pro Tempore. It then goes to the Lieutenant Governor to sign. These signatures are perfunctory. However, the seven-day countdown only begins once the signatures are received, and the bill arrives on the Governor's desk.

You may see when and what enrolled acts reach the Governor's desk and when he signs them on his <u>Bill Watch</u> Website.

2025 UPCOMING DEADLINES

HOUSE: Senate Bills

2nd Reading: Monday, April 14, 2025 3rd Reading: Tuesday, April 15, 2025

SENATE: House Bills

2nd Reading: Monday, April 14, 2025 3rd Reading: Tuesday, April 15, 2025

HOUSE & SENATE

Anticipated Sine Die: Thursday, April 24 Statutory Sine Die: Tuesday, April 29

2025 GOVERNOR BILL WATCH

Click <u>HERE</u> to view the Governor's website on enrolled acts/bills reaching his desk.

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CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

The conference committee process is the process of reconciling bills to guarantee that every piece of language receives a constitutional majority vote in both chambers before it becomes law. Please see the graphic below which helps explain the conference committee process.



