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# CPA Advocate Toolkit 2023

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# YOUR ROLE AS A CPA ADVOCATE



Thank you for taking the time to learn more about using your expertise as a trusted business advisor to be an advocate for the CPA profession. As a CPA Advocate, you will represent the profession and the Indiana CPA Society to your state legislators. While the time commitment is minimal, the strength of the relationship you build and maintain may make the difference in the outcome of future legislation affecting the profession and business environment in Indiana.

As a CPA Advocate, you will develop a two-way relationship with your state legislators and serve as a resource to them throughout the year. It is important to develop a relationship before you need to call on a legislator about a specific issue. Take advantage of any opportunity to interact with your legislator.

## CPA ADVOCATE TO-DO'S

- ✓ Send a letter or email introducing yourself after an election or at the beginning of a General Session.
- ✓ Subscribe to the legislator's e-newsletter and follow their various social media accounts.
- ✓ Contact your legislators when there is a "call to action" from the Society.
- ✓ Send a note to the legislator at the end of the legislative session thanking him/her for their public service and offering to be a resource during the interim.

# COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR



Effectively communicating your knowledge of and concern with issues to legislators is an essential part of our success at the Statehouse. Whether it is in writing or in person, presentation can be the deciding factor as to whether our correspondence is in the "first response" or the "reply later" file.

## DO

- ✓ Use business letterhead.
- ✓ Use correct grammar and punctuation.
- ✓ Mention (if possible) the specific bill in question. When you are writing about a specific piece of legislation, a House bill is identified as H.B. and a Senate bill as S.B.
- ✓ Mention a common thread that you and the legislator share, i.e. children attend the same school.
- ✓ Clearly state the reason for your letter early in your correspondence.
- ✓ Ask your legislator for a reply that states his/her position.
- ✓ Include return address/phone number/email address.
- ✓ Double check the facts you are presenting to ensure they are accurate.
- ✓ Address only one issue per correspondence.
- ✓ Send letter before action is taken.
- ✓ Be prepared to address the "other side's" argument.
- ✓ Let INCPAS staff know about your outreach and any responses from legislators.

## DON'T

- ❑ Send a form letter.
- ❑ Use technical terms or acronyms. Legislators are not experts on every issue.
- ❑ Write more than a one-page letter/email.
- ❑ Remind the legislator that you are a taxpayer.
- ❑ Send the same letter to multiple legislators.
- ❑ Apologize for taking the legislator's valuable time.
- ❑ Forget that you may be asking the legislator for favorable votes in the future.
- ❑ Ruin your credibility by guessing if you don't know the answer to a question.
- ❑ Be vague or deceptive.
- ❑ Discuss political contributions EVER.

## CPA ADVOCATES GROUP IN THE ONLINE COMMUNITY



All CPA Advocates have access to the CPA Advocates group on the INCPAS Online Community. This is a great place for you to get up-to-date information related to your role as a CPA Advocate and the legislative process.

You will find an electronic version of this toolkit, sample letters, updates from INCPAS staff and the Society's lobbyist.

Visit the CPA Advocate Community at [incpas.org/OnlineCommunity](http://incpas.org/OnlineCommunity).

## SAMPLE LETTER/EMAIL TEMPLATES



Whenever the Society asks you to reach out to your legislator, we'll include sample templates for you to easily personalize. Refer to the following pages for a few suggested templates for common situations CPA Advocates will come across.

## INTRODUCTION LETTER OR EMAIL TO LEGISLATOR

It's important to begin to develop a relationship with your elected officials. The introduction message lets your senator or representative know you and the Indiana CPA Society will be a valuable resource to them throughout the year.

[Insert Date]

The Honorable [Insert Senator's Name]  
Address  
City, State, Zip Code

Dear [Sen./Rep.] [Insert Last Name]:

On behalf of CPAs throughout your district, I want to thank you for the important work you do and to wish you a successful 2023 session of the Indiana General Assembly.

I am a constituent in your district and am a Certified Public Accountant. As a trusted business advisor, I understand many of the complex issues you will be faced with in this upcoming legislative session. I hope you keep myself and the Indiana CPA Society in mind and reach out to use us as a resource.

In addition to its nearly 7,000 CPA members, the Society has several advisory councils that research and discuss how proposed legislation will impact not only the CPA profession, but also Indiana businesses. CPAs serving on the Advocacy, Government Relations, and Tax Resource Advisory Councils, as well as ad hoc working groups, are extremely knowledgeable and look forward to being of assistance when needed.

During your term in office, if the Indiana CPA Society or I can be of any assistance to you, please contact me at [Contact Information]. I look forward to the opportunity to work with you during this legislative session.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Contact Information]

## INVITE LETTER OR EMAIL TO LEGISLATOR

When the Society has a specific legislative event, CPA Advocates will receive a sample letter with the event details. When writing to your legislators on the Society's behalf, please forward a copy of your letter to Sherrill Rude, INCPAS VP-Advocacy, at [srude@incpas.org](mailto:srude@incpas.org).

[Insert Date]

The Honorable [Insert Senator's Name]  
Address  
City, State, Zip Code

Dear [Sen./Rep.] [Insert Last Name]:

On behalf of CPAs throughout your district, I want to thank you for the important work you do and to wish you a successful 2023 session of the Indiana General Assembly.

Although you received an invitation from the Indiana CPA Society, I would like to extend a personal invitation to you to join me at the [Name of the Event]. The event information follows:

Name of the Event

Date

Time

Location

Address

Please RSVP to: [email address] or [phone number]

When you arrive, let a staff member know we are meeting so they can locate me. I look forward to seeing you.

During your term in office, if the Indiana CPA Society or I can be of any assistance to you, please contact me at [Contact Information]. I look forward to the opportunity to work with you during this legislative session.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Contact Information]

## SUPPORT/OPPOSE BILL LETTER OR EMAIL TO LEGISLATOR

When the Society has a call to action, CPA Advocates will receive a sample letter addressing the specific talking points related to the bill the Society is supporting or opposing. When writing to your legislators on the Society's behalf, please forward a copy of your letter to Sherrill Rude, INCPAS VP–Advocacy, at [srude@incpas.org](mailto:srude@incpas.org).

[Insert Date]

The Honorable [Insert Senator's Name]  
Address  
City, State, Zip Code

Dear [Sen./Rep.] [Insert Last Name]:

As a CPA and a constituent of yours, I urge you to [support/oppose] [Name of Bill]. [Give a few strong reasons why you are in support or opposition of the bill and how it will impact you, your business, clients or employer, and/or the CPA profession. INCPAS staff will provide you with the key points.]

[If possible, include a personal story.]

[Insert INCPAS talking points.] *(these will be provided to you in advance)*

[Tell your representative how you want him/her to vote on the issue and ask for a response. Be sure to include your name and address on your letter and your envelope.] Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Contact Information]

# GUIDE TO ATTENDING LEGISLATIVE EVENTS



When attending a virtual or in-person legislative event or fundraiser on behalf of the Indiana CPA Society, there are some practical guidelines to follow to ensure that your time is well utilized. Based upon law, ethics and/or common sense, the following do's and don'ts will help maximize your impact when attending events.

## DO

- ✓ Recognize that a fundraiser and a legislative event have very different purposes.
- ✓ If you're participating in an in-person event, respect the mask and distancing policies set by the venue.
- ✓ If you're participating in a virtual event, treat it like you would an in-person event. Turn your camera on (if that's an option), stay muted if you aren't speaking, stay engaged and ask questions. Also, don't forget to introduce yourself.
- ✓ Keep in mind that a fundraiser is primarily a social function. Take advantage of this more casual setting to get to know your legislator better. If you went to the same school or church, have kids on the same teams, etc.—mention it to help the legislator more easily remember you as a trusted business advisor in the community.
- ✓ Legislative events like the Society's Legislator Chats and similar events are slightly different than a fundraiser. Do your homework before you go. If a legislator or their staff member asks what issues are important to the CPA profession, be prepared to respond in a brief, concise manner (more lengthy discussions are best saved for a separate meeting, unless the legislator wants to continue the discussion). The Indiana CPA Society will provide background information on the legislator and a brief synopsis of issues being advocated by the Society at your request. Remember—if you aren't concerned about an issue, it is unlikely the legislator will be either.
- ✓ Understand all sides of an issue. In order to speak intelligently about an issue, you must be able to counter your opponent's arguments if necessary.
- ✓ Know when it is appropriate to ask for a meeting to discuss an issue at a later date. As an advocate for the CPA profession, the Society may periodically ask you to contact your legislator regarding an issue. Such discussions should take place at his/her office or over the telephone. A fundraiser is not an appropriate place to ask a legislator to take action on an issue.
- ✓ Follow through with any request that a legislator makes in a timely manner. If you are unable to meet the request, let the legislator know why. INCPAS staff can assist you with follow up.
- ✓ Send or email a short "thank you" note after the event. It is a great way to reinforce your relationship and let the legislator know you enjoyed attending the event.
- ✓ Copy the Society on all correspondence. This can help the staff know what issues were discussed as well as what topics are important to the legislator.

## DON'T

- ✗ Attempt to threaten or bribe legislators. Promises to vote for or contribute to a legislator's opponent will help ensure he or she will not support the CPA profession on the issue at hand—or any other issue.
- ✗ Use the fundraiser as an opportunity to "lobby" the legislator. Remember it is a social event for the legislator. He or she may not want to talk "shop" outside of the office.



# ADDITIONAL INCPAS ADVOCACY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



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## INDIANA CPA-PAC

The Indiana CPA-PAC is the only PAC that represents you and the CPA profession in Indiana. The PAC supports the campaigns of state legislators and candidates who support and represent the best interests of the public and CPA profession.

It's important all INCPAS members contribute to the PAC. By supporting the PAC as early as you can each calendar year, you help the profession have a voice in the legislative process.

Interested in serving as an Indiana CPA-PAC Trustee? These dedicated CPAs want to make a difference in the profession. The trustees oversee PAC fundraising and contributions to political campaigns in accordance with the laws of the state of Indiana. Trustees are appointed to three-year terms and participate in three meetings or conference calls a year.

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL (GRAC)

GRAC members serve as regulatory and legislative advisors for the Society. They participate in 3-4 meetings a year and often attend Board of Accountancy and other regulatory agency meetings.

The Government Relations Advisory Council is responsible for considering legislative policies, current position statements and other legislative or regulatory activities as it relates to INCPAS. GRAC develops, monitors and responds to legislation, regulation or rules affecting the CPA profession.

It considers, but is not limited to the AICPA, UAA, NASBA, and Board of Accountancy as sources and considers the following topics: ethics, education requirements, other competing professions or designations, professional standards, professional liability, licensure, peer review, transparency, and matters which regulate fees and compensation or otherwise impose taxes, duties or assessments.

In the fall of each year, GRAC prepares and documents a legislative agenda which prioritizes issues for the GRAC's consideration and action. This agenda is submitted to the Board and may be modified as appropriate and circumstances warrant.

## TAX RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (TRAC)

TRAC members serve as advisors to legislators, their staff and regulatory agencies related to tax.

The Tax Resource Advisory Council is responsible for considering legislative policies, current position statements and other legislative or regulatory activities as it relates to tax issues. TRAC furthers the development of fair and reasonable systems of taxation. TRAC develops, monitors and responds to legislation, regulation, or rules affecting the tax practice in the CPA profession.

It considers the AICPA, IRS, DOR and other taxing authorities as sources and shall further consider but not be limited to the following topics: ethics, education, professional standards, professional liability, licensure, state and local taxes, compliance and enrolled agents. TRAC serves as a resource to legislative bodies including the Ways and Means Committee and other tax related entities. Additionally, TRAC annually meets with DOR and IRS.

In the fall of each year, TRAC prepares and documents an annual legislative agenda which prioritizes issues for TRAC's consideration and action. This agenda is coordinated with GRAC and submitted to the Board and may be modified as appropriate and circumstances warrant.

# POLICY STATEMENTS



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## INCPAS POLICY STATEMENTS

Developed by the INCPAS Advocacy Council May 22, 2019

### Business Ethics

Envisioned as the home of the most trusted professionals. Locally...Globally, INCPAS encourages and supports high standards for business behavior based on ethical values and for CPAs to adhere to the Professional Code of Conduct.

### Fiscal Responsibility: Government (Includes state, local and public schools)

We advocate that elected leaders and government officials responsibly balance resources that support, protect and advance the best interests of the citizens of Indiana.

### Fiscal Responsibility: Personal

INCPAS and its members regard personal fiscal responsibility as a vital skill for all Hoosiers.

### Government Transparency

INCPAS encourages and supports the transparency of governmental processes and financial reporting by all state and local governmental entities and all public schools within the State of Indiana.

### Professional Issues and Licensing

INCPAS respects the public interest and is the leading advocate for the profession and members related to professional licensing issues, regulatory compliance, ethics and professional issues.

### State and Local Tax Policy

INCPAS advocates for state tax policy delivered by the state in a sound and transparent manner that creates a favorable tax environment for individuals and business.

## ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AND QUESTIONS

The Society will do everything it can to assist in your role as a CPA Advocate. If you need help reaching out to a legislator, or a legislator contacts you with questions, do not hesitate to contact INCPAS.

**Sherrill Rude, CAE**

Vice President – Advocacy  
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(317) 726-5016

**Ali Paul, CAE**

Vice President – Pipeline & Outreach  
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(317) 726-5025

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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### THE STATE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

The state representatives and senators who serve as our voice in the legislative process are the cornerstone of government. They are the source of many laws, regulations and policies that affect you and your profession.

Hundreds of bills are introduced each session, but few are ever enacted into law. The deliberative process that determines whether proposals become law is often long and complex, taking months or even years. Conflicts of power, bargaining and compromise are inevitably involved in making or changing public policy.

Even in all its complexity, concerned citizens can still impact legislation. This section explains the legislative process and demonstrates how and where you can make a difference.

#### Your Role in the Process

Legislators must comprehend hundreds of different issues, and then determine how to vote and how to best represent their constituents' views. (Imagine you were required to be an expert on every facet of your organization or your clients' professions, as well as your own.) Clearly, your legislator's job can be complex, and he or she can benefit from your advice as a trusted business advisor.

Legislators receive information on new proposals from many sources — media, trade and professional associations, public interest groups, law firms, labor unions and businesses — which often serve as the dominant information and lobbying source for legislators. Lawmakers are seldom approached by groups representing a broad cross-section of interests from their home district. It's important to leverage your business acumen. Offer thoughtful, constructive and balanced options while the legislation is still in the formative stage at the subcommittee or committee level. Such an approach is welcome by lawmakers and can effectively influence legislation.

As a CPA Advocate, you can help colleagues in your business or in the CPA profession develop a constructive and positive approach to issues. If you then communicate your views to your lawmakers, they will be able to better represent those views as the legislation is being developed.

Utilize the Society's resources to leverage your relationship with your legislators. There are sample letters of introduction, suggestions for ways to maintain your relationship and talking points on issues for which the Society has a position. Staff, the Society's lobbyist and your fellow members working in the advocacy arena have expertise of which you should take full advantage.

## State Power Centers

As you become involved in the legislative process, it is important to remember—in addition to constituent input—there are other powerful forces at work when legislation is considered. The process also may be heavily influenced by two major power structures within the state legislature—political party leadership and committee leadership.

Party leadership is the most long-standing power center within state and federal legislatures. The Indiana House and Senate are each controlled by the party dominated by the majority of the chamber's members. The members of the major political parties in each chamber elect their own officers. Also, the total proportion in each house determines the proportion of majority members to minority members on each committee.

Both the House and the Senate elect Majority and Minority Leaders who coordinate the conduct of business in the two chambers and manage legislation on the floor. They are elected by their political party's caucus principally for their party standing, and legislative leadership ability. These leaders develop strategy on how a piece of legislation will be moved through the various checkpoints in the legislature and onto the Governor's desk.

The Speaker of the House is the presiding officer of that chamber and is the leader of the majority party. The speaker is that party's chief strategist and devotes a great deal of time to promoting the legislative policies of that party. The Speaker also exerts considerable influence over assignments of individuals to committees, and influences the fate of legislation by deciding when it will be debated.

The Majority Leader of the Senate is known as Senate Pro-Tempore. Like the Speaker of the House, the Pro-Tempore acts as the principal legislative strategist for the majority party and influences decisions regarding committee assignments. The Pro-Tempore and the Speaker of the House are arguably the most powerful individuals within the Indiana legislature.

Committee leadership is the next layer in the power structure and includes the standing committee chairs. Committee chairs derive their power from control over bills referred to their committees, and may determine whether or not bills will be considered. Committee chairs can delay, block or expedite action on measures with few restrictions. The chairs also select subcommittee chairs under their jurisdiction, or choose to serve as subcommittee chairs themselves.

Increasingly, ad hoc groups or caucuses, composed of lawmakers who share common viewpoints, are an informal power structure that has developed within the legislative decision-making process. Such groups serve as information and control centers on issues and can become powerful blocks on bills they deem important.

Given this system, it may seem party leaders and committee chairs have more influence over the course of legislation than the constituents back home do. That is not the case. Politically active and involved constituents are still a lawmaker's priority, and can have a tremendous impact on the system when they organize and lobby on an issue. That's why the power of the seniority system and centralized political parties has diminished, and grassroots lobbying is flourishing.

## HOW A BILL BECOMES A STATE LAW

The following is a brief description of the state legislative process and the key points where grassroots action has the greatest impact.

### I. Introducing a Bill

When a bill is being prepared to be introduced into either the House or the Senate, a member of that body must sponsor it. Often, the member will send a “Dear Colleague” memo to all other chamber members to seek additional co-sponsors. A bill may be introduced in either chamber or both simultaneously. Under the Constitution, budget bills must originate in the House of Representatives; otherwise, there are no restrictions as to where the measure originates.

There are many different types of bills, and each has a title and number. A bill originating in the House is designated by “H.B.” followed by a number. A Senate Bill is designated by “S.B.” followed by its number.

Bills designated “H.J.R.” or “S.J.R.” are joint resolutions. While in practice, there is little difference between the content of a bill and a joint resolution—the latter is commonly used to extend the life of an existing law.

Bills designated “H.C.R.” or “S.C.R.” are concurrent resolutions that must be approved by both chambers. Bills designated “H.C.R.” or “S.C.R.” are simple resolutions concerning the operation of either chamber alone. They are used mainly to create special investigating committees, change rules, or express the will of the chamber on a particular matter.

Sources of legislative proposals are unlimited and diverse. Sources include:

- Members of the Indiana General Assembly
- Individual constituents or constituent groups
- Coalition groups and lobbyists representing constituent groups
- Legislative committees

Knowing the source of proposed legislation can reveal a great deal about it, including the chance of passage. Many bills never get beyond this first step.

### II. Committee Assignment

Upon introduction of a bill, the Speaker of the House or the Pro Tempore of the Senate refers it to the committee having proper jurisdiction. Each committee has jurisdiction over issues in several areas. Most committees also have some subcommittees.

### III. Committee Action

Committees are perhaps the most important phase of the legislative process. They carry out the central functions of the Indiana General Assembly, including:

- Processing bills that have been introduced.
- Investigating the need for new legislation.
- Overseeing the Executive Branch—within their own particular areas of jurisdictional interest.
- Each committee also is required to oversee the administration of laws that the General Assembly enacts in the area over which it has legislative jurisdiction.
- To relieve the heavy workload of committees, subcommittees have been formed for some standing committees—especially in the House.

Committees and subcommittees are considered the “working level” of the General Assembly, where the decisions are made about the content and language of a bill, and the actual details of legislation are hammered out. It is at the subcommittee and committee level that laws are formulated and should be balanced with public comment. Once a bill has reached the House or Senate floor for a vote, it is more difficult for it to be reshaped or defeated, because the majority of members will defer to the “experts” on the

committee that studied and reported the bill. Clearly, public comment to adjust a law's content must occur well before the bill reaches the floor. Committee action generally falls into one of two categories:

### *Hearings*

Members of the legislature, public officials and professional people, private citizens, experts and other interested groups are invited to offer their opinions on a particular issue being considered by the committee. The purpose of a hearing can be to:

- Determine the possible impact of proposed legislation.
- Seek and obtain information.
- Test public opinion.
- Build support for proposals.
- Delay action on a bill.
- Provide a forum for parties to be heard.

### *Reporting Bills*

The full committee may report the bill out as it was introduced with amendments, or as a "clean" bill. If a committee fails to report a bill, the measure is dead—with few exceptions it cannot proceed to full House or Senate consideration. This is the stage where most bills die, as few are ever reported from committees.

## **IV. Scheduling**

If a bill receives a favorable recommendation from a committee, it must be scheduled for a floor vote. In Indiana, the decision to schedule a floor vote is made by the legislative leadership, although some other states have a separate committee for this function.

## **V. Floor Vote**

At this stage, members decide the fate of the bill. This is a critical time when all members should be informed of the Indiana CPA Society's position on the bill. The Indiana General Assembly allows debate and amendments at this time, and grassroots communications can be critical.

## **VI. Second Chamber Action**

If the bill passes, it is sent to the second chamber where the same basic procedure is followed. If the second chamber amends the bill, the original chamber must concur with the amendments. If concurrence is not reached, the second chamber may either withdraw its amendments or request a conference committee. If the bill passes in the same form it passed the original chamber, it is sent to the Governor for his signature.

## **VII. Conference Committee**

A conference committee is appointed when the two chambers pass different versions of the same bill. Committee members include both Majority and Minority members from each chamber, and it is their job to resolve differences in the two bills. Grassroots lobbying may be useful here in trying to revise problems in the bill. All conference committee members should be contacted while they are working on a compromise.

## **VIII. Conference Report**

If they are able to resolve differences in the bills, the conference committee issues a conference report which is signed by a majority of the delegation from each chamber. Both chambers must then approve the report. The chamber where the bill first originated votes first. If the conference committee reaches no agreement, the bill is usually dead. If the bill passes both chambers, it is sent to the Governor for his signature.

## **IX. Action by the Governor**

After a bill is received by the Governor's office, he has a limited time period to act on the legislation. The Governor can sign the bill into law, allow it to become law by not signing it, or veto it and return it to the legislature along with an explanation of the veto. The legislature can then override the veto with a two-thirds majority vote.

# 2023 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## LEAD

We either work to have legislation introduced or we work with others (legislators, agencies, coalitions/partners) to have it introduced, and we actively support their efforts.

- ★ Introduce legislation to allow credit for pass-through-entity related income tax paid in other states on Indiana returns and to enact a state level PTE tax.
- ★ Introduce licensure legislation to align Indiana with UAA Model Act and Model Rules. *Note: These changes may be needed in statute before rules can be changed.*
  - Change experience requirement for licensure from two years to one year.
  - Add definition of “principal place of business” to allow CPE reciprocity in rules.
  - Add provision to allow inactive and retired status licensees to participate in volunteer or uncompensated services to the public.

## ENGAGE

We adhere to our advocacy policies in determining the level of our engagement and may support, oppose or remain neutral on a bill or issue. We may provide member’s expertise in the form of testimony or in meeting with influencers.

- ★ Oppose licensure legislation that is not in the public interest and would be detrimental to CPAs’ ability to provide professional services to the organizations and clients whom they represent.
- ★ Support legislation that promotes broadband access and expansion to rural and underserved populations and areas in Indiana.
- ★ Assess the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus’ legislative agenda for common-ground issues to advance diversity, equity and inclusion related to equity and excellence in education, pipeline and workforce.
- ★ Support legislation to clarify the use and application of Indiana’s Research & Development Credit for Indiana’s businesses.
- ★ Support inserting model language to any marijuana legalization bill to protect CPAs providing professional services for clients in the marijuana industry legally operating according to state law.

## MONITOR

We are watchful of legislation and issues, assessing risk of escalating our involvement and determining if/when we should take action or weigh in based on our advocacy policies.

- ★ Monitor cybersecurity bills with negative implications for CPAs and business in Indiana.
- ★ Monitor Indiana Department of Revenue and Professional Licensing Agency’s legislative initiatives, and support efforts benefiting taxpayers and licensees in Indiana.
  - Legislation regarding tax implications for multistate employees
  - Business personal property tax threshold
  - Regulation of money transmissions



### QUESTIONS?

Sherrill Rude, CAE  
INCPAS Vice President – Advocacy

(317) 726-5016  
srude@incpas.org

[incpas.org/Advocacy](https://incpas.org/Advocacy)

# Your Small Steps for Advocacy are Big Steps for the Profession

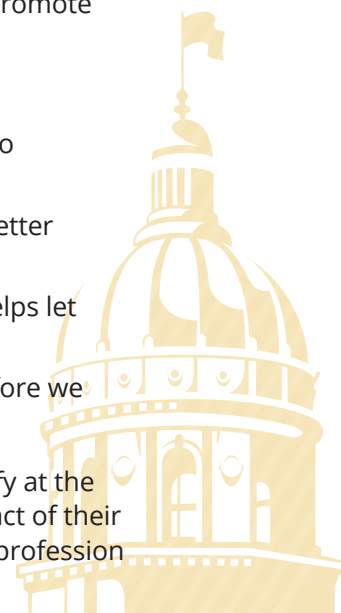


Advocacy may seem intimidating, but it doesn't have to be. It starts with signing up to be a CPA Advocate and becoming familiar with the Society's key advocacy initiatives that help promote your CPA license, clients, employers, the profession and public interest.

You don't need to be an expert—serving as a CPA Advocate is as simple as:

- **Telling us who your elected officials are.** It's helpful for our team to know who represents your interests.
- **Using INCPAS as your resource.** We provide all the information you need to better understand current legislative issues.
- **Making contact.** A simple introductory email or phone call to your legislator helps let them know you (and the Indiana CPA Society) are a resource.
- **Putting in your two cents.** Sometimes we need member input on an issue before we take a position on it.

Don't worry—by being a CPA Advocate for the profession, you won't be asked to testify at the State House, draft potential legislation or constantly advise legislators about the impact of their decisions. But, as a CPA Advocate, you will strengthen and increase the voice of your profession in Indiana.



## Join us as a CPA Advocate

► **Fill out the form online at [incpas.org/Advocates](https://incpas.org/Advocates).**

In addition to becoming a CPA Advocate, investing in the Indiana CPA-Political Action Committee is an investment in yourself, the profession and state of Indiana.

### Indiana CPA-PAC contributions help:

- Build and leverage relationships with elected officials.
- Represent your interests as a CPA.
- Serve the business needs of your clients and employer.
- Ensure fair and simplified taxes.
- Protect the CPA license and work through compliance issues.
- Guarantee government transparency and accountability

### 3 quick, easy ways to contribute and support the Society's advocacy efforts:

1. Text CPAPAC to (202) 858-1233.
2. Visit [tinyurl.com/INCPA-PAC](https://tinyurl.com/INCPA-PAC).
3. Or scan this QR code with the camera on your phone.



***We're raising the tide so everyone benefits—not just the CPA profession. A stronger economy and growing workforce help ensure Indiana remains fiscally sound.***

— Kevin Huston, CPA



# LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY HISTORY OF THE CPA PROFESSION IN INDIANA



Year	Description
1915	<p><b>First law creating the designation of CPA and State Board</b></p> <p>The Indiana General Assembly passed legislation that enabled granting certificates for the professional designation of Certified Public Accountant. Indiana's first CPA law created a State Board of Certified Public Accountants and established criteria for the issuance of CPA certificates.</p>
1925	<p><b>Indiana SEC</b></p> <p>Legislation passed which established the Indiana Securities Commission.</p>
1928	<p><b>Indiana Corporations Law</b></p> <p>IACPA (Indiana Association of Certified Public Accountants—former name of Indiana CPA Society) played a role in the passage of the Indiana Corporations Law.</p>
1933	<p><b>Bank Audits</b></p> <p>Legislation passed which authorized the state banking department to accept bank examinations made by CPAs instead of those made by state bank examiners.</p> <p><b>Utility Company Audits</b></p> <p>IACPA supported legislation that would have permitted local government to allow CPAs to audit the books of utility companies. This bill died in committee.</p> <p><b>SEC Company Audits</b></p> <p>IACPA also supported legislation that would have authorized CPAs to audit the records of companies involved in the distribution of securities in Indiana. This bill passed both houses, but was not signed by the Governor.</p>
1941	<p><b>Board of Accountancy</b></p> <p>Legislation was introduced which would require members of the State Board of Certified Public Accountants to be members in good standing of IACPA. It also separated the State Board of Certified Public Accountants from the State Board of Accounts. The bill passed both houses, but was vetoed by the Governor. IACPA went to work encouraging members of the legislature to override the veto. This action succeeded just before the legislature adjourned.</p>
1946	<p><b>Experience Requirement</b></p> <p>State Board of Accountancy promulgated rules that required successful Exam candidates to have sufficient experience in a public accounting firm before they would be issued a CPA certificate.</p>
1947	<p><b>Unauthorized Practice of Law</b></p> <p>HB 2657 concerned the qualifications of those who represent clients before federal regulatory bodies. The IACPA opposed the bill. (BD 5/24/47)</p>
1949	<p><b>Public Accountants</b></p> <p>Public accountants introduced a bill which would give them recognition similar to CPAs. With much work, the CPAs were able to get the bill defeated.</p>
1959	<p><b>Audits</b></p> <p>HB 424 and SB 408 both revised the credit union laws. They would allow audits of credit unions to be done by certified public accountants (revised to say "qualified public accountants"). Both bills failed.</p>

Year	Description
1966	<p><b>Interstate Mobility</b> INCPAS Board and Legislative committee considered legislation related to interstate practice and privileged information.</p>
1969	<p><b>Accountancy Act of 1969</b> Indiana Accountancy Act of 1969 was enacted and ushered in an era of regulated public accounting to the state. The legislation established the Board of Public Accountancy as the regulatory body for the practice of public accounting. The board consisted of five members—three CPAs and two PAs. The law established the education and experience requirements for the designation of CPA (high school graduate and 3 years public accounting experience; 1972–baccalaureate degree from accredited college and 3 years public accounting experience).</p> <p>The law also established the criteria for the practice levels of public accounting according to the designations of CPA, PA and AP (Accounting Practitioner).</p> <p>With the passage of this act, Indiana became the 41st state to enact regulatory accounting legislation.</p>
1974	<p><b>SEA 6 Incorporations Act</b> Permits CPAs, PAs and APs to practice in Indiana in the corporate form.</p>
1979	<p><b>Mandatory CPE</b> House Bill 1236 was enacted which required mandatory CPE. The legislation required CPAs to acquire continuing education to obtain a renewal of their permits. Ultimately, the rules provided that a CPA must obtain 60 hours of CPE between July 1, 1980 and December 31, 1981 with 20% of those hours involving auditing and/or accounting. After that initial period, it went to 40 hours of CPE every 12 months and 10% in A&amp;A.</p> <p>Members credited with helping this legislation get passed are Al Hinton, George Ludwig, Bill Rea, Paul Marshall and Charles Rutherford.</p>
1985	<p><b>CPA Exam</b> Legislation allows students to sit for the Exam 60 days prior to receiving their baccalaureate degree.</p>
1985	<p><b>Board of Accountancy</b> Composition changed to 4 CPAs; 1 PA and 1 public member (was 3 CPAs and 2 PAs).</p>
1988	<p><b>CPA-PAC</b> The Indiana CPA Political Action Committee was established.</p>
1989	<p><b>Taxpayer Bill of Rights</b> Legislation was enacted that created the Taxpayer Bill of Rights.</p>
1990	<p><b>150-Hour Education Requirement</b> INCPAS Board appointed a committee charged with implementation of the 150-hour education requirement into the Indiana Accountancy Act.</p>
1991	<p><b>150-Hour Education Requirement</b> Was introduced but failed to pass.</p>
1991	<p><b>Commissions and Contingent Fees</b> Included in statute the prohibition of commissions and contingent fees. Board asked that commissions and contingent fees be specifically defined by statute.</p>

Year	Description
1992	<p><b>HEA 1095 150-Hour Education Requirement; Provisions for Mandatory Quality Review</b></p> <p>Enacted – this bill updates the Accountancy Act of 1969. Some of the highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 150-hour education requirement for taking the CPA Exam</li> <li>• Provisions to allow the Board of Accountancy to require mandatory quality (peer) review</li> </ul>
1993	<p><b>HEA 1573</b></p> <p>Involved withholding on out-of-state shareholder income.</p>
1993	<p><b>SEA 485 LLCs</b></p> <p>Indiana Business Flexibility Act permits businesses to organize as Limited Liability Companies (LLCs).</p>
1994	<p><b>Non-CPA Ownership</b></p> <p>INCPAS wrote a white paper and began thinking about legislation on this matter.</p>
1995	<p><b>SEA 475 LLPs</b></p> <p>Permits Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs).</p>
1996	<p><b>Board of Accountancy</b></p> <p>INCPAS Board appointed a task force to study the administrative and enforcement capabilities of the Board of Accountancy.</p>
1997	<p><b>Board of Accountancy</b></p> <p>INCPAS introduced legislation regarding administrative and enforcement capabilities of the Board of Accountancy.</p>
1998	<p><b>CPE Sponsor Requirement</b></p> <p>INCPAS writes a position paper that recommends the Board of Accountancy repeal regulations requiring CPE sponsors to be recognized by the board.</p>
1998	<p><b>Unauthorized Practice of Law</b></p> <p>INCPAS and AICPA filed a joint amici curiae brief with the Indiana Supreme Court regarding who may represent clients before the State Board of Tax Commissioners.</p>
1999	<p><b>Private Detective Law</b></p> <p>INCPAS successfully amended legislation to provide an exemption for CPAs from the private detective licensing requirement.</p>
2000	<p><b>Multi-disciplinary Practice/Unauthorized Practice of Law</b></p> <p>The Society appointed a task force to begin reviewing this issue.</p> <p>State Board of Tax Commissioners promulgated rules defining who may represent clients before it. Rules included CPAs.</p>
2000	<p><b>Ethics CPE Requirement</b></p> <p>Board of Accountancy adopts rule requiring 2 hours of ethics CPE.</p>
2001	<p><b>Property Tax Filing Deadlines</b></p> <p>INCPAS opposed legislation that would eliminate county assessors' ability to grant 30-day extensions for filing property taxes.</p>

Year	Description
2001	<p><b>HEA 1573 Substantial Equivalency; Firm Ownership; Experience Requirement</b></p> <p>Passed—the bill included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substantial equivalency.</li> <li>• Firm ownership requirements.</li> <li>• Experience requirement changed to two years across the board.</li> <li>• Definition of attest and compilation.</li> <li>• Also changed the education requirement for APs to an associate’s degree.</li> </ul>
2003	<p><b>HEA 1183 Computer Based CPA Examination</b></p> <p>Updates Indiana’s Accountancy Act to permit the transition to a computer-based Exam and allows an out-of-state licensee to verify CPA experience.</p>
2005	<p><b>Mandatory Quality (Peer) Review</b></p> <p>Board of Accountancy adopts rules that require all Indiana public accounting firms to submit to a quality (peer) review before renewing their permit beginning with the June 2006 renewal.</p>
2005	<p><b>Sales Tax on Services</b></p> <p>INCPAS drafted a position statement in opposition to sales tax on professional services.</p>
2007	<p><b>HEA 1312 Enforcement Fund; Interstate Mobility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Created an enforcement fund for the Board of Accountancy.</li> <li>• Improved interstate mobility of CPAs.</li> </ul>
2008	<p><b>HEA 1125 Mandatory E-filing</b></p> <p>Provides an opt-out to amend Indiana’s mandatory e-file requirement and delays noncompliance penalties until Dec. 31, 2010. Effective July 1, 2008.</p>
2008	<p><b>SEA 301 Board of Accountancy</b></p> <p>Changes the composition of the State Board of Accountancy to replace the PA member with a CPA.</p>
2008	<p><b>Substantial Equivalency</b></p> <p>Board of Accountancy repealed all of section 872 IAC 1-5-1, which dealt with requiring out-of-state CPAs to submit a “notice of intent to practice accountancy in Indiana” to the board when they were going to practice in this state.</p>
2008	<p><b>HEA 1197 Electronic Security-Data Breach</b></p> <p>Established reporting requirements and procedure for breach of data.</p>
2008	<p><b>Immigrant Workers</b></p> <p>Proposed HB 1098 and SB 335 failed; would cause loss of professional license if unknowingly hired undocumented workers.</p>
2009	<p><b>E-filing Opt-out Changes</b></p> <p>SB541 and HB1447 failed which would have removed the opt-out option for e-filing.</p>
2009	<p><b>HEA 1001 IN Tax Revenue Codes Alignment with IRS Codes</b></p> <p>Brings Indiana codes in alignment with Streamlined Sales &amp; Use Tax Agreement as amended through September 5, 2008.</p>
2009	<p><b>HEA 1581 Mandatory Financial Literacy for Grades 6–12</b></p> <p>Established mandatory financial literacy education in grades 6-12 for Indiana students. Effective July 1, 2009.</p>
2010	<p><b>Unemployment Compensation Rates</b></p> <p>SB 23 delayed effective date to 2011 for higher unemployment compensation tax rates.</p>

Year	Description
2010	<p><b>Professional Employer Organizations</b></p> <p>Monitored HB 1166, HB 1240 and SB357 which would have required PEOs to have an audit and financial statements prepared by a licensed CPA. Bills did not pass.</p>
2010	<p><b>SEA 356 Professional Licensing–Cease and Desist</b></p> <p>Allows a licensing board to order the Attorney General's office to take action against unlicensed professionals.</p>
2011	<p><b>HEA 1233 Peer Review Transparency and Client Records</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes references to quality review to peer review.</li> <li>• Requires administering entity to report failed peer reviews to the Indiana Board of Accountancy's Peer Review Oversight Committee for consideration of disciplinary action. Clarifies definition of client records and requirements for returning client records.</li> <li>• Effective July 1, 2011 signed by Governor without the license amnesty provision.</li> </ul>
2011	<p><b>HEA 1001 (Sec 86) E-file for Professional Preparers</b></p> <p>Effective July 1, 2011—Aligns the threshold numbers for the state with the IRS; preserves the taxpayer opt-out.</p>
2012	<p><b>SEA 330 Certified Public Accountants (Professional Standards)</b></p> <p>Effective March 6, 2012—Permits the State Board of Accountancy or the executive director of the licensing agency on behalf of the board to adopt an emergency rule that incorporates by reference the latest statement, edition, or compilation of nationally recognized professional standards governing the competent practice of accountancy.</p>
2013	<p><b>SEA 293 Government Accounting Study Committee</b></p> <p>Creates a government accounting study committee <i>which will have two CPAs appointed by the Chair of the Legislative Council</i>. The Committee will meet for two years to: (A) study issues concerning state and local government accounting, including issues related to the implementation of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), as adopted by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB); and (B) study any other issue assigned to the committee by the legislative council or as directed by the chairperson of the committee.</p>
2013	<p><b>HEA 1179 Securities Matters</b></p> <p>Requires that certain financial statements that are submitted with a registration statement for securities that: (1) are registered by qualification; and (2) are to be offered in Indiana with a maximum aggregate offering price in excess of \$1,000,000; be prepared using U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and be audited by an independent certified public accountant under U.S. generally accepted auditing standards or standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makes it unlawful for a person to violate an agreement that is: (1) entered into between the securities division and the person; and (2) ordered by the securities commissioner under the Indiana Uniform Securities Act.</li> <li>• Provides that a violation of an agreement does not subject the person to liability to a purchaser or seller.</li> </ul>
2013	<p><b>SB 418 Financial Literacy Instruction</b></p> <p>Would have required financial literacy instruction in grade six through grade 12 in public schools, <i>including charter schools, and accredited nonpublic schools. Would have established a task force to develop guidelines and model curricula for financial literacy instruction.</i></p>

Year	Description
2013	<p><b>SB 497 Regulation of Accountancy</b></p> <p>The Society introduced legislation to change four items in the Indiana Accountancy Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extending term limits for Board of Accountancy members to three terms.</li> <li>• Clarifying the need for firm permits.</li> <li>• Creating a retired license status.</li> <li>• Change the enforcement fund to ensure adequate funding for compliance in the future.</li> </ul>
2013	<p><b>SB 520 ERASER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would have created the eliminate, reduce, and streamline employee regulation (ERASER) committee to study professional licensing in Indiana. The office of management and budget staffs the committee. Repealed the regulated occupations evaluation committee and created a five-year cycle for sun-setting professional licenses, registrations, and certifications.</li> <li>• Although CPAs were removed from the bill early in the session, the bill could have had long-term implications for all licensed professions.</li> </ul>
2013	<p><b>SB 522 Property Tax Deadlines and Procedures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed changing the property tax deadline to March 1.</li> <li>• Would have changed related filing/due dates to align with the March 1 date.</li> <li>• The Society opposed and worked for amendments. The bill ultimately did not make it out of committee of the second house.</li> </ul>
2014	<p><b>SEA 338 State Board of Accounts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserves requirement that state examiner is a CPA and both deputy examiners are CPAs—all must be licensed.</li> <li>• Increases from three to five the number of years of experience state examiner must have as a CPA.</li> <li>• Establishes a six member audit committee to provide independent review and oversight of state board of accounts and examination process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– All members “must possess or obtain a basic understanding of governmental financial reporting and auditing.”</li> <li>– 5 voting members—one is Director of Office of Management &amp; Budget or designee.</li> <li>– Chair and four members are appointed by Chair of Legislative Council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 1 of the four is a non-voting advisory member.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Year	Description
2014	<p><b>SEA 421 Professional Licensing Matters &amp; Property Tax Deadlines</b></p> <p>The Society worked with legislators to introduce SB 184 which included four key changes to the Accountancy Act. As the session progressed, several bills issues were combined into SB 421. Changes to the Accountancy Act include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definition of Attest.</li> <li>• Creates a retired license status.</li> <li>• Extends Board of Accountancy member’s terms to three 3-yr terms.</li> <li>• Increased the cap on the Enforcement Fund from \$750k to \$1m and directs certain civil penalties assessed by the board to the fund.</li> </ul> <p>The Jobs Creation Committee is established under the Office of Management &amp; Budget with this bill. The committee will assume the function and oversight responsibilities of the Regulated Occupations Evaluation Committee.</p>
2014	<p><b>SEA 420 Property Tax Deadlines &amp; Procedures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changed property tax assessment date to January 1.</li> <li>• Preserves the property tax deadline of May 15 instead of May 1.</li> <li>• Defines application of Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice for county assessors and appraisers, and tax representatives who provide client representation related to personal property taxation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– This is not an increase in regulations or a new set of standards for CPAs.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2015	<p><b>HEA 1303 Registry of Certified Professions</b></p> <p>Utilizes the registry to allow organizations to certify and administer “state certified” professions.</p>
2015	<p><b>HEA 1562 Professional Licensing Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allows boards 120 days to issue or reinstate a license or permit.</li> <li>• Initial licenses issued within 90 days of renewal not required to be renewed until next renewal.</li> <li>• Provides notice of renewal at least 90 days in advance.</li> </ul>
2015	<p><b>HEA 1001 State Biennial Budget</b></p> <p>Includes provisions for State Board of Accounts and college/university examinations.</p>
2015	<p><b>HEA 1104 Financial Examinations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides procedures for internal controls for public entity, allows external examinations by CPA firm, changes to SBOA requirements.</li> <li>• Permits the SBOA to determine frequency of financial examinations based on risk-based criteria.</li> <li>• Provides that certain examinations by SBOA may be made without notice.</li> <li>• Establishes procedures for selecting external examinations purveyor.</li> </ul>
2015	<p><b>HEA 1264 State and Local Government Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishes systems for internal controls and related training for political subdivisions.</li> <li>• Requires internal audits, control reviews and reporting by certain state agencies.</li> <li>• Requires phase-in of GAAP financials for certain political subdivisions.</li> </ul>

Year	Description
2015	<p><b>HEA 1341 Insurance Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires insurers/groups to have internal audit function and internal control over financial reporting.</li> <li>• Creates audit committee for insurance companies.</li> </ul>
2015	<p><b>SEA 369 Publication &amp; Internet Posting of Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires local governments and school corporations to provide information for posting on the Indiana transparency website.</li> <li>• Requires the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) after July 31, 2016, to publish an annual financial and operational summary of each political subdivision on the Indiana transparency website.</li> <li>• Establishes other transparency requirements for political subdivisions.</li> </ul>
2015	<p><b>SEA 489 State Board of Accounts Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides SBOA access to any periodic statement of condition filed by a depository with the treasurer of state.</li> <li>• Requires vendors to allow SBOA to access all software and records of computer services that a vendor has supplied to a political subdivision.</li> </ul>
2015	<p><b>HEA 1142 Tax Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires Legislative Services Agency to conduct review, analysis and evaluations of all tax incentives.</li> <li>• Requires LSA to submit results to Interim Study Committees and Fiscal Policy Committee along with recommendations for General Assembly use in amending tax legislation.</li> </ul>
2015	<p><b>HEA 1472 Various Tax Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makes changes to Non Resident Withholding for nonresident partners, shareholders, and trust beneficiaries.</li> <li>• Allows Commissioner of DOR to expunge tax judgment and warrant under certain conditions and requires DOR to adopt related rules.</li> </ul>
2015	<p><b>SEA 436 State and Local Taxation</b> Adjusts AGI calculations related to agriculture land use and property tax assessments.</p>
2015	<p><b>SEA 438 State and Local Tax Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminates double direct for sales tax exemption manufacturing.</li> <li>• Requires the department to: (1) study the department's current information systems; (2) develop a plan for modernizing the department's information systems; and (3) submit a report of the study and plan to the budget committee and the legislative council.</li> <li>• Directs interim study committee to determine the amount of statutory tax relief that C corporations have realized in the calendar years from 2011 through 2014 and are anticipated to realize from 2015 through 2021.</li> </ul>



Year	Description
2015	<p><b>SEA 441 Various Tax Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminates the taxation of income that is attributed to a state that does not have an income tax (the “throwback rule”).</li> <li>• Eliminates double direct sales tax for material handling equipment purchased for the purpose of transporting materials into production activities from an onsite location.</li> <li>• Eliminates various add backs for purposes of determining Indiana AGI (IRC Conformity).</li> <li>• Defines business income as all income apportionable to Indiana under the Constitution of the United States.</li> <li>• Eliminates various income tax deductions, exemptions and credits.</li> <li>• Makes technical corrections and conforming amendments.</li> </ul>
2015	<p><b>SEA 487 Business</b> Makes changes to business and other association laws for agricultural associations.</p>
2015	<p><b>HEA 1102 Patent Infringement</b> Prohibits a person from asserting a claim of patent infringement in bad faith.</p>
2016	<p><b>HEA 1169 Business Personal Property Tax Exemptions</b> Business PPT exemptions—remove notary requirement, allows on return.</p>
2016	<p><b>HEA 1272 Professional License Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removes mandate for CPE audit—IPLA and Board of Accountancy determine CPE audit and percentage audited.</li> <li>• Mandates rulemaking to allow Board of Accountancy access to Peer Review results.</li> </ul>
2016	<p><b>HEA 1290 State and Local Administration</b> IRC conformity—Tuition, education, qualified charitable deductions</p>
2016	<p><b>HB 1321—Sales Tax on Services–Withdrawn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed bill introduced by House Ways &amp; Means Chair would have taxed all services with no exceptions and limited business to business exceptions.</li> <li>• The Society opposed the bill which was withdrawn without being assigned to committee.</li> <li>• Would have reduced state sales and use tax from 7% to 3.1%.</li> </ul>
2016	<p><b>HEA 1372 State Board of Accounts</b> Changes requirements for public personnel surety bonds and annual audit; allows audits at state examiner’s schedule.</p>
2016	<p><b>SEA 219 Expedited Licenses for Military Spouses</b> Requires rulemaking to allow expedited licenses for military spouses.</p>
2016	<p><b>SEA 309 State and Local Taxation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time and materials retroactive to 2010.</li> <li>• IRC conformity-529 Plan, dependent exemptions.</li> </ul>
2016	<p><b>SEA 323 Legislative Studies</b> Combined reporting study</p>
2016	<p><b>SEA 371 Probate Matters</b> Due date and process changes to inheritance tax returns.</p>

Year	Description
2017	<p><b>HEA 1001 State Biennial Budget</b> Includes provisions for funding for two years, Indiana Department of Revenue's IT Modernization plan.</p>
2017	<p><b>HEA 1009 School Financial Management</b> Compels certain sized schools and local municipalities and counties to implement GAAP by 2020 in order to issue bonds.</p>
2017	<p><b>HEA 1031 State Examiner Findings</b> Specifies requirements for corrective action when audited entities fail to comply with certain guidelines or laws. Specifies actions the audit committee may take if an audited entity fails to comply with a corrective action plan.</p>
2017	<p><b>HEA 1129 Local Income Tax and State Sales Tax Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandates collection and remittance of sales tax by retail merchant doing business in Indiana.</li> <li>• Specifies changes to Department of Local Government Finance processes and procedures.</li> </ul>
2017	<p><b>HEA 1308 Various Professional Licensing Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminates the requirement of a certificate of registration for professional corporations.</li> <li>• Allows all boards to impose sanctions on a licensee as a result of an administrative complaint filed by the attorney general after renewal or reinstatement of a license.</li> </ul>
2017	<p><b>HEA 1467 Accountants</b> Enables the Indiana Board of Accountancy to develop rules to implement competency-based professional development for license renewal.</p>
2017	<p><b>HEA 1489 Property Tax Exemption for Non-Profits</b> Calls for a study committee to examine the inconsistencies in the application of exemptions for non-profits for property tax.</p>
2017	<p><b>SEA 114 Professional Licensing</b> Repeals Job Creation Committee</p>
2017	<p><b>SEA 440 Various Tax Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specifies the content of a notice to a taxpayer that establishes a deadline for taxpayer to respond.</li> <li>• Requires DOR to study and report the department's retention records for investigation, audit, or claim for refund.</li> </ul>
2017	<p><b>SEA 515 Various Tax Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modifies sales and use tax exemptions.</li> <li>• Provides income tax deduction for certain amounts a taxpayer included as an income item in prior tax year.</li> <li>• Marion County tax on certain professional sports employees and activities.</li> <li>• Requires a study concerning the correlation between employment growth and the statutory tax relief realized by C corps from 2011–2016.</li> </ul>

Year	Description
2018	<p><b>SEA 257 Sales Tax on Software</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Person is retail merchant when sells, rents or leases for licenses to use prewritten software delivered electronically.</li> <li>• Transactions with a user purchasing, renting or leasing the right to remotely access is not a retail transaction.</li> </ul>
2018	<p><b>HEA 1245 Occupational Licensing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires state and local governmental units explicitly list the crimes that will disqualify an individual from receiving an occupational license.</li> </ul>
2018 Special Session	<p><b>HEA 1315 SS School Corporation Financial Management (Muncie Schools)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transfers financial management of Muncie School Corp. to Ball State University.</li> </ul>
2018	<p><b>HEA 1316 SS Taxes and Higher Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tax reform conformity and decoupling with IRC following federal tax reform.</li> <li>• 529 Plan qualified contributions and withdrawals for K-12 education.</li> </ul>
2019	<p><b>HEA 1465 Professional Development in Accounting</b> Professional development in accounting eliminates a requirement for licensees to submit a learning plan for competency-based renewal. It passed unanimously in both chambers. The Governor signed it into law April 18.</p>
2019	<p><b>HEA 1269 Administrative Boards</b> Boards (the Governor’s bill) affects licensing boards with less than 15,000 licensees. It decreases the number of board members by one and reduces board terms to two years. This will affect the Board of Accountancy.</p>
2019	<p><b>HEA 1569 Professional Licensing Matters</b> Professional Licensing Matters simplifies and replaces emergency rules passed by licensing boards, which were challenging to implement. It defines a “conviction of concern” as a criminal conviction directly related to the duties and responsibilities of the occupation or profession for which the individual is applying for or renewing a license.</p>
2020 Professional Licensing Bills Passed/ Amended & passed without detriment to CPAs	<p><b>HEA 1148 Board of Accountancy (Continuous Exam)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administratively removes Exam windows which allows candidates to take the CPA Exam on a continuous basis and to re-take failed sections when AICPA begins offering the Exam in June 2020. The bill stipulates the rule must be promulgated within one year.</li> </ul>
2020	<p><b>HEA 1049 Business Associations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amends provisions for franchise operations and licensure of collections agencies.</li> </ul>

Year	Description
2020	<p><b>HEA 1077 Professional Licensing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makes technical corrections to several medical professions (pharmacist interns, home medical equipment) and medical vendors.</li> </ul>
2020	<p><b>SEA 358 Business Associations of Real Estate Agents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allows a broker company to pay compensation directly to a business entity owned by a licensed broker that has been formed for the purpose of receiving compensation earned by the broker.</li> </ul>
2020	<p><b>SEA 427 Provisional Occupational License</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allows provisional licensure for the spouse of an active duty member of the armed forces assigned to Indiana with certain requirements. Provides that provisional licensing does not apply to a license that is established or recognized through an interstate compact, a reciprocity agreement, or a comity agreement that is established by a board or by law. Establishes penalties for submission of false information for purposes of obtaining a provisional license.</li> </ul>
2020 Licensure Bills Died/Defeated	<p><b>HB 1008 Occupational Licensure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This bill would have expedited licensure for any individual by reciprocity. The bill was amended to allow licensed professions with an existing reciprocity process to follow that process.</li> </ul>
2020	<p><b>SB 198 Administrative Rules Oversight Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would have made it even more burdensome to promulgate rules by adding to the rules process and timeline. Rule promulgation has been under a moratorium since 2013.</li> </ul>
2020	<p><b>SB 364 Regulatory Impact Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would have required reporting from multiple agencies regarding reciprocity and market competitiveness for various licensed professions.</li> </ul>
2020 State Agencies & Oversight Passed	<p><b>HEA 1113 Local Government Finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covers a number of procedural changes for Department of Local Government Finance, counties and local government.</li> </ul>
2020	<p><b>HEA 1153 Governor's Workforce Cabinet</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishes the Governor's Workforce Cabinet to create a strategic plan aligning educational curriculum with workforce needs and growth opportunities.</li> </ul>

Year	Description
2020	<p><b>HEA 1419 Governor’s Workforce Cabinet</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes additional provisions related to various agencies and educational organizations for the alignment of K-Post Secondary educational requirements with employers’ needs.</li> </ul>
2020 Government Accounting and Auditing Passed	<p><b>HEA 1108 State Board of Accounts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Makes various changes to processes and procedures related to governmental audits by the State Board of Accounts (includes provisions recommended by the Audit and Financial Reporting Subcommittee – State Audit Committee).</li> </ul>
2020 Died/ Defeated	<p><b>SB 76 State and Local Examinations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Among other changes, this bill would have required the uniform compliance guidelines for audit examinations of state or local units conducted by the state board of accounts to include a required disclosure of any pledge, covenant, or agreement that the unit has made as security or guarantor for a private bond issue of a private company.</li> </ul>
2020	<p><b>SB 341 Audit and Fraud Reporting Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would have changed appointment of chief examiner and deputies from the governor to the state audit committee, added quality control procedures for audits, Whistleblower hotline and protections, added unpredictability element to audit.</li> </ul>
2020 State Tax Passed	<p><b>SEA 408 Various Tax Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill covers a broad spectrum of tax matters, but an area of concern related to conforming to federal partnership audit regimes was removed for future study.</li> </ul>
2020	<p><b>SEA 320 Withholding Tax Remittance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides that the Indiana Department of Revenue shall only accept payment of employer withholding taxes that are made or withdrawn directly from the business account of the employer that is liable for withholding and remitting the tax. However, provides an exception from the requirement for employers that submit a waiver to the department.</li> </ul>
2020 State Tax Died/ Defeated	<p><b>SB 309 Employee Misclassification</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would have required the Indiana Department of Revenue, Indiana Department of Labor, Indiana Workers Compensation Board, and the Indiana Department of Workforce Development to provide an annual report regarding cost of improperly classified workers in the state.</li> </ul>
2021	<p><b>HEA 1373 Certified Public Accountant Examination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill passed and was signed into law on April 15 and was designed to allow candidates to sit for the Exam at 120-credit hours pending rulemaking. The bill also extends the rulemaking timeline for provisions related to the Exam that were passed last session. INCPAS will work with the Board of Accountancy to promulgate the rule to implement these changes.</li> </ul>

Year	Description
2021	<p><b>SEA 1 Civil Immunity Related to COVID-19</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEA 1 provided civil immunity to businesses for COVID-19 lawsuits and was fast-tracked and signed into law on February 18 by Gov. Holcomb.</li> </ul>
2021	<p><b>HEA 1002 Civil Immunity Related to COVID-19</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This bill was signed into law by Gov. Holcomb on April 29. Protects health care providers from professional discipline for certain acts or omissions arising from a disaster emergency unless the act or omission constitutes gross negligence, willful or wanton misconduct, or intentional misrepresentation.</li> </ul>
2021	<p><b>SEA 383 Various Tax Matters (Partnership Audit Adjustment Regime)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEA 383 includes the final provisions that allow state statute to conform with the federal partnership audit adjustment regime. Working for more than a year, with DOR, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, AICPA, and COST (Council on State Taxes), INCPAS members' expertise and tireless efforts were instrumental in ensuring the bill was correct, clear and concise as the provisions were added to the state tax code.</li> </ul>
2021	<p><b>SEA 234 Withholding Tax Remittance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEA 234 exempts firms/companies from new regulatory oversight and registration with the state as long as they do not take possession of client funds in providing the service.</li> </ul>
2021	<p><b>HEA 1001 State Budget</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In addition to encompassing the state budget, HEA 1001 changes the definition of Internal Revenue Code in the adjusted gross income law to mean the IRC of 1986 as amended and in effect on March 31, 2021, thus providing conformity with tax provisions of COVID-19 federal relief acts – including CARES, Consolidated Appropriations and American Rescue Plan. See HEA 1436.</li> </ul>
2021	<p><b>HEA 1436 State and Local Administration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes the determination of adjusted gross income for purposes of state income tax deduction for unemployment compensation, effectively decoupling Indiana from the federal unemployment provisions in the American Rescue Plan.</li> </ul>
2022	<p><b>HEA 1001 Administrative Authority, COVID-19 Immunizations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While the Society was not involved with this bill, it was significant because it ended the COVID-19 public health emergency.</li> </ul>
2022	<p><b>HEA 1002 Various Tax Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced the individual adjusted gross income tax rate from 3.23% to 3.15% in 2022</li> <li>Phases down the AGI after 2024 provided certain conditions are met.</li> <li>Provisions to change the 30% depreciation floor for business personal property tax did not pass.</li> </ul>

Year	Description
2022	<p><b>HEA 1260 Department of Local Government Finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rewrites the property tax assessment appeal standards regarding the burden on assessors to prove any assessment increase exceeding 5%.</li> </ul>
2022	<p><b>HB 1083 Tax and Fiscal Matters and SB 372 Taxation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both bills died but were significant in that they included provisions for sales tax on services. They would have broadened the tax base significantly including professional services of CPAs.</li> </ul>
2022	<p><b>SEA 1 Automatic Taxpayer Refund</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishes an automatic taxpayer refund for income tax when the state's budget has a surplus of 12.5%.</li> <li>• Removes the provision that requires individual to have a tax liability to qualify.</li> </ul>
2022	<p><b>SEA 382 Various Tax Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broad tax bill that included positive business-related changes affecting partnerships and a provision favorable to small businesses that receive the federal health insurance premium credit.</li> </ul>