

# Legislative Agenda

## Chamber Outlines Bill Positions

By Kevin Brinegar, president and CEO, Indiana Chamber of Commerce

This **first edition** of the Indiana Chamber's 2017 *Legislative Agenda* continues an evolving public policy process for the organization and the state's business community.

Chamber policy committees, composed of statewide volunteer leaders, meet throughout the year. They identify key issues, research the topics and help define policy positions, which are adopted each fall by the Chamber's board of directors.

The organization's policy positions are outlined in the annual *Legislative Business Issues* publication, with the 2017 edition presented to all members of the General Assembly at the beginning of the current session. *Legislative Agenda* matches those policy positions with specific feedback on the bills introduced in the House and Senate.

This publication provides clear input on issues that not only affect the Indiana business community, but communities, families and individuals throughout the state. We strive to provide you with a clear understanding of our positions on key bills that will assist you as you proceed during this legislative session.

Please contact me or any of the members of our government affairs team with questions about this *Legislative Agenda*.

**NOTES:** This first edition considers all bills as of 1/25. The absence of a bill from this list does not mean the Indiana Chamber has, or will have, no position on the legislation. The review process continues throughout the legislative session.



This symbol denotes bills designated as "job killers."

## HOUSE BILLS

### HB 1001 BIENNIAL BUDGET (T. Brown)

Appropriates money for capital expenditures, the operation of the state, the delivery of Medicaid and other services, as well as various other distributions and purposes. Provides for the determination of state funding of public schools for state fiscal year 2015-2016 and state fiscal year 2016-2017. Specifies higher education capital projects authorized to be constructed using bonds. Provides \$5 million from a 2013 appropriation for the health and safety contingency fund to rehabilitate a state owned building to be used to provide services to Indiana's veterans. Makes the Venture Capital Investment Tax Credit transferrable. Has elements of the \$1 billion over 10 years innovation and entrepreneurship initiative, which includes \$20 million Indiana Biosciences Research Institute, creates the "next level" Indiana board of trustees to develop investment policy to make investments in Indiana funds and firms. Contains elements of the open-data hub initiative. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports the fiscal prudence evidenced by this budget, which demonstrates a

commitment to aligning spending with revenue projections. It is important to recognize that ultimately the budget presents numerous difficult priority choices regarding appropriate levels of education funding, infrastructure needs and maintaining adequate reserve balances while meeting the obligations of the state. More specifically, the Chamber supports elements of the budget bill which address specific things to advance Indiana technology, entrepreneurship and innovation policies.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

### HB 1002 TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING (Soliday)

Provides for a one-time fuel tax rate increase of 10 cents per gallon on gasoline (currently \$0.18), special fuel tax (currently \$0.16) and motor carrier surcharge tax (currently \$0.11.) Provides for an annual rate increase in fuel tax rates based on an annual index factor. Increases alternative fuel decal fees by 50%. Establishes a \$15 transportation infrastructure improvement fee that applies to all motor vehicle registrations. Requires a person who registers an electric vehicle to pay a supplemental registration fee of \$150, with an increase every five years based

on an index factor. Provides that the gasoline use tax is distributed to highway funds over a phase-in period. Repeals restrictions on when a tolling project can be undertaken. Requires the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) to seek a Federal Highway Administration waiver to toll interstate highways. Permits INDOT to approve certain railroad crossing projects and authorizes the Indiana Finance Authority to finance an approved project subject to a maximum annual debt service limit of \$10,000,000. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** House Bill 1002 addresses the structural deficit of Indiana's road funding. Indiana needs more money: \$1.2 billion a year on average to make our roads and bridges safer and business and personal travels much smoother. This is a priority issue of the Chamber's *Indiana Vision 2025* plan.

**Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

#### HB 1003 STUDENT ASSESSMENTS (Behning)

Replaces the ISTEP test program after June 30, 2018, with a new statewide assessment program to be known as Indiana's Learning Evaluation Assessment Readiness Network (ILEARN). Repeals a provision defining the ISTEP program. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** We support repealing the provision passed last year that would sunset the current ISTEP assessment in the fall of 2017; that should not happen until an appropriate replacement has been developed. Because national experts have testified that it would take, at a minimum, two years to develop an appropriate replacement, the repeal is necessary. We will continue to push for an appropriate assessment – one that aligns to Indiana's current college and career readiness standards, provides appropriate data for students on their growth and proficiency, and can be used to evaluate teachers and school districts.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1004 PREKINDERGARTEN EDUCATION (Behning)

Allows the Division of Family Resources to award an early education matching grant to an eligible developer that: (1) submits an expansion plan to the division that details the eligible developer's plan to: (A) increase the capacity of providers of eligible services to serve a greater number of eligible children; (B) increase the number of providers of eligible services; or (C) increase capacity of and increase the number of providers; and (2) meets certain other requirements. Prohibits the division from using more than a total of 20% of the money in the early education matching grant program fund each state fiscal year for grants awarded to eligible developers for expansion plans. Amends household income requirements for eligibility of a child for the: (1) early education matching grant program; and (2) early education pilot program. Provides that the pilot program may include eligible providers from 10 (instead of five) counties. Amends the amount of grant money an eligible child may receive under the pilot program based on annual household income. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This is a top issue for the Chamber this session. We support allowing more Hoosier 4-year-olds from low-income families access to high quality pre-kindergarten education. This will give disadvantaged children a head start on their education,

providing them a better foundation to succeed throughout their educational career. Further, the Indiana Chamber is advocating for this expansion to take priority for the state's limited dollars.  
**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1007 EDUCATION COURSE ACCESS PROGRAM (Cook)

Allows the Department of Education to authorize course providers to offer course access program courses that provide for the delivery of instruction through any method, including online technologies, in the course access program. Requires the department to: (1) oversee the program; (2) approve courses offered in the program; and (3) maintain a course access program catalog. Requires the department to negotiate a tuition fee for each offered course. Requires the school corporation in which an eligible student is enrolled to transfer the tuition fee for a course to the authorized course provider. Allows the state board of education to adopt emergency and nonemergency rules. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The ability to provide courses online will allow for students to have more access to high level classes with quality instruction from strong teachers, plus potentially cut costs and thereby redirect more dollars into the classroom. The Chamber strongly supports this to be explored to the fullest extent.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1008 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (Huston)

Provides a credit equal to the lesser of \$25,000 or 50% of a training program's expenses for an employer that employs not more than 250 employees and provides a training program that results in: (1) an incumbent employee receiving an industry level certification and an increase of at least 5% in the employee's compensation; or (2) full-time employment with the employer in a high wage, high demand job for a participant who completes the training program. Requires the State Board of Education to work in conjunction with the Department of Workforce Development to provide oversight and administration of career and technical education. Establishes conditions for the renewal of a workforce ready grant, and provides alternatives to maintenance of satisfactory academic progress that allow a student to qualify for and renew an adult student grant and a workforce ready grant. Establishes an annual reporting requirement to the Governor and the Legislative Council by state providers of workforce related programs concerning the results of each of those programs. . **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** We are supportive of an employer tax credit for incumbent working training, as it would help move the needle on the Chamber's goal of 60% of workers achieving post-secondary credentials in high-wage, high-demand jobs. We also support the language requiring an audit of all workforce programs (including funding streams) to ensure that dollars are being spent wisely and appropriately.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1009 SCHOOL FINANCIAL MGMT. (Cook)

Eliminates the school general fund and creates an education fund to be used as the exclusive fund to pay expenses allocated to student instruction and learning. Creates an operations fund

to replace the capital projects fund, the transportation fund, the school bus replacement fund, an art association or a historical society fund and the public playground fund. Allows transfers between the education fund and operations fund. Establishes a maximum levy for the operations fund based on the levies for capital projects, transportation, bus replacement, historical societies, art associations and public playgrounds. Provides that the maximum operations fund levy is to be increased annually by the income based assessed value growth quotient. Removes the approval of the plans and appropriations by the Department of Local Government Finance. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber believes in financial support dollars following the student. We also endorse policies and other strategies allowing schools to shift funds from administrative and overhead costs to provide greater funding directly to the classroom and for teachers. This and other financial transparency methods in schools will work towards those goals.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1012 HIGHER EDUCATION EXPENSES (Culver)

Requires a state educational institution, each semester (or its equivalent), to provide to each student enrolled in the state educational institution: (1) a statement of the total amount of money the student is paying to the state educational institution to attend the state educational institution for that semester (or its equivalent); and (2) an itemized invoice of the expenses for which the student's payment is being used. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART/NEUTRAL IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports transparency in student costs of higher educational attainment. It is important for students and their families to understand where their dollars are being spent. The Chamber does not have a position at this time on itemized breakdown of costs.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1015 SCHOOL EFFICIENCY GRANTS (Frye)

Establishes the school efficiency grant program for the purpose of providing grants to school corporations for costs associated with implementing efficiency and cost effective measures. Establishes the school efficiency grant fund. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Smaller school corporations can increase efficiency, lower costs and support students better by merging or consolidating services with neighboring districts. Schools that can consolidate services – such as transportation, food and custodial service – can save money, which can go back into the classrooms and directly impact the students. This legislation is a good first start in incentivizing school corporations to think outside the box when it comes to efficiency and fiscal viability.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1028 DENTAL AND OPTOMETRY SERVICE COVERAGE (Bacon)

Prohibits dental and vision insurers and health maintenance organizations from requiring dentists and optometrists to accept certain payments unless the health care services are covered under the policy or contract. Prohibits dentists and optometrists from charging for non-covered health care

services an amount that exceeds the usual and customary charges for the health care services. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** On the surface it seems unfair for insurers to limit the reimbursement rates for dental and optometry services when those are not covered services under a health plan. However, insurers setting reimbursement rates on non-covered dental and optometry services save employees on their out-of-pocket expenses. Employers request these discounts for their employees as a benefit to their health plans. This bill prohibits that practice and will cost employees more in out-of-pocket expenses for dental and optometry coverage. If dentists and optometrists do not like these contractual arrangements then they should not participate in the network.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

HB 1031 STATE EXAMINER FINDINGS (Slager)  
Specifies requirements for corrective action when audited entities fail to comply with certain guidelines or laws. Requires the Department of Local Government Finance to deny the budget or supplemental appropriation of an audited entity under certain circumstances. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Local officials entrusted with overseeing the expenditure of tax revenues should be held accountable if they fail to comply with the laws regarding the reporting of their financial dealings.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### HB 1036 MARION COUNTY JUDICIAL SELECTION (Steuerwald)

Provides for the selection of Marion Superior Court judges. Establishes the 14 member Marion County judicial selection committee. Provides that, when the committee learns of a vacancy on the court, the committee follows certain procedures that conclude in the committee sending the names of three nominees to the governor. Requires the Governor to appoint one of the nominees as judge to fill the vacancy. Provides that, at the end of a judge's term on the court, the judge may have the question of the judge's retention on the court placed on the general election ballot. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The present system of selecting judges in Marion County is in need of revision due to a court order. This bill maintains partisan balance and creates a retention system for judges. Many business cases go through the Marion County court system and as much as possible, want to take the politics out of the selection process. The bill proposes 12 of the 36 Marion Superior judges will face retention votes in elections every two years beginning in 2020.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1045 SALES TAX ON RECREATIONAL VEHICLES (Cherry)

Provides that a nonresident's purchase of a recreational vehicle or cargo trailer that is transported out of Indiana for registration and use in another state or country is exempt from the state sales tax, regardless of whether the destination state or country provides a similar exemption for Indiana residents. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The recreational vehicle industry is heavily concentrated in Indiana and employs many Hoosiers. The demand for these Indiana products is enhanced

when they can be sold at competitive prices through nearby Indiana dealers. Requiring out-of-state residents to pay the Indiana sales tax puts Indiana dealers at a competitive disadvantage and diminishes the market for the recreational vehicles manufactured in our state.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### HB 1050 OUT-OF-STATE DRUG PRESCRIPTIONS (Judy)

Provides that if a patient legally obtains a drug containing marijuana, hash oil, hashish or salvia in a state, territory or possession of the United States other than Indiana through a prescription from a licensed physician acting in the course of the physician's professional medical practice and dispensed by a licensed pharmacist or other licensed dispenser, the patient may possess marijuana, hash oil, hashish or salvia subject to certain requirements and limitations. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** Marijuana is federally classified as a Schedule I controlled drug with no medically-indicated uses. Twenty-eight states have medical marijuana programs. Before state legislation is passed, the federal government must repeal federal law and then empower states based upon Article 10 of the U.S. Constitution.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1057 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES (D. Miller)

Requires the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to do the following before August 1, 2018: (1) conduct a review of the various state reporting requirements for small businesses regarding their employees; (2) identify those duplicative state reporting requirements in current law that could be consolidated into one reporting procedure in a manner that is consistent with state and federal legal requirements related to the reporting obligation; (3) identify the state statutes, rules or guidelines that would need to be amended or repealed in order to accomplish a consolidation of the duplicative state reporting requirements; and (4) conduct a cost benefit analysis of consolidating the duplicative state reporting requirements. ... **Position:**

**SUPPORT Reason:** This analysis could lead to actions to make it easier for smaller and upstart businesses to interact with state reporting requirements for starting and growing a business.

**Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

#### HB 1059 COVERAGE OF IN VITRO FERTILIZATION (Shackleford)



Requires an insurer that issues a group accident and sickness insurance policy, and a health maintenance organization that enters into a group contract, which provides pregnancy-related coverage to offer to the group sponsor certain coverage for in vitro fertilization procedures. Provides a religious exemption.

**Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber has a standing policy against mandates to insurance policies because the cost of coverage is then passed along to the employer and the employees. This bill impacts fully-insured plans and, as a result, mostly small employers. Self-funded plans are exempt.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1060 HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING PROGRAM (Shackleford)

Establishes the healthy food financing fund and healthy food financing program under the administration of the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA). Provides that the purpose of the fund is to provide financing in the form of loans or grants for projects that increase the availability of fresh and nutritious food in underserved communities. Defines an "underserved community" as a census tract determined to be an area with low supermarket access: (1) by the United States Department of Agriculture; or (2) as identified through a methodology used by another healthy food initiative. Provides that the IHCDA may contract with one or more nonprofit organizations or community development financial institutions to administer the program through a public-private partnership. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Indiana ranks 36th in the nation in obesity. Proper nutrition and exercise are two factors that could improve that ranking. Having access to healthy foods is a measure supported by the Chamber.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1082 REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP (Cook)

Provides that one of the commissioners appointed by the municipal or county executive to a redevelopment commission must be a member of the governing body of a school corporation that includes all or part of the territory served by the redevelopment commission. Removes language providing for the appointment of nonvoting advisers to redevelopment commissions from the governing bodies of school corporations. Provides that nonvoting advisers serve until a member of the governing body of a school corporation is appointed to the redevelopment commission. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This is a reasonable change given that about half of the property taxes impacted by a redevelopment commission would have gone to the school corporation in the area.

**Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

#### HB 1086 MEDICAL PAYMENT COVERAGE (Frye)

Specifies that medical payment coverage is supplemental to coverage under a health plan or public health coverage program. Specifies that: (1) the amount paid under medical payment coverage must not exceed the amount to which the health care provider agreed as payment in full for a health care service under the covered individual's health plan or public health coverage program; and (2) the covered individual is not liable for any amount that exceeds the amount to which the health care provider agreed as described in (1). **Position: OPPOSE IN PART/NEUTRAL IN PART Reason:** Medical payment coverage on an auto insurance policy has always been primary to health insurance coverages; policies are underwritten with that in mind. Specifying that medical payment coverage is supplemental to coverage under a health plan will cause problems with health insurers subrogating to the medical payment coverage of the property and casualty policy. The Chamber could support in concept that the med pay coverage must not exceed what a reimbursement rate would pay to a

health care provider; that could reduce overall medical payment costs borne by a property and casualty policy.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**HB 1087 FUEL TAXES AND VEHICLE FEES (Frye)**  
Specifies the motor carrier fuel surcharge tax must be paid on all special fuel when the special fuel tax is paid instead of being paid quarterly. (The surcharge tax applies only to commercial use.) Provides that an individual who owns a motor vehicle that uses diesel fuel that is exempt from the motor carrier fuel surcharge tax is entitled to a credit of \$100 (\$50 in 2017) against the individual's adjusted gross income tax liability each taxable year as an offset to the motor carrier fuel surcharge taxes paid throughout the year. Provides for a refund to vehicle owners for taxes paid on motor fuel used in vehicles exempt from the surcharge tax. Provides that biodiesel fuel that is manufactured in Indiana and shipped out of state is exempt from the special fuel tax and motor carrier fuel tax. (Under current law, a refund must be claimed.) ...  
**Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** This bill makes some common sense changes in the way fuel taxes and surcharges are collected that should save some administrative costs in collection and better compliance. The provision in this bill with the \$100 per year electric vehicle road impact fee should be part of the larger transportation infrastructure funding bill, HB 1002.

**Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

**HB 1099 INDUSTRIAL RECOVERY TAX CREDIT (Torr)**

Provides that a taxpayer is entitled each taxable year to an industrial recovery tax credit against the taxpayer's state tax liability in an amount equal to 25% of the taxpayer's qualified investment in a qualified community development entity made during the taxable year. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill creates a good tool for communities to support community development activities.

**Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

**HB 1121 PROTECTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY (D. Miller)**

This bill would allow an owner of real property or a person with a vested right to a specific use of real property to seek compensation from a governmental entity if a specific action taken by the governmental entity inordinately burdened an existing use of the real property or a vested right to a specific use of the real property. Provides that statutes providing immunity from tort liability for governmental entities and employees when the loss occurs under certain circumstances and prohibiting the award of punitive damages against governmental entities and employees acting within the scope of their employment do not apply to claims for inordinately burdening use of real property. Requires a governmental entity to which a property owner's claim is submitted to make a written settlement offer to the property owner and to issue a written statement identifying the property's allowable uses. Authorizes the property owner to file a civil action for

compensation in the circuit or superior court if the property owner rejects the settlement offer. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This bill could have a negative impact on business by slowing development as well as governmental permitting/regulation. Would likely have an increased governmental costs if the Office of Attorney General, other state agencies and educational institutions need to defend any alleged or potential civil actions due to a claim of inordinate burden on property.  
**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

**HB 1127 NULLIFICATION OF EPA REGULATIONS IN INDIANA (Judy)**  
Nullifies all regulations imposed in Indiana by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Provides that the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) shall provide environmental protection for the citizens of Indiana. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** If passed, HB 1127 would not eliminate EPA's authority to implement its environmental law on business and industry in Indiana. It would, however, prevent IDEM from being allowed to have delegated authority from EPA, and EPA would have primacy over Indiana business. Additionally, any business would need to comply with two completely different environmental regulatory systems – federal and state.  
**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

**HB 1139 OUT-OF-STATE HEALTH INSURANCE (Braun)**

Allows an accident and sickness insurer that is licensed in certain other states but not in Indiana, and that complies with the state examination and insurance premium tax requirements, to issue a policy of accident and sickness insurance to a resident of Indiana without complying with other Indiana insurance law. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** We are about to see some type of repeal of the Affordable Care Act. It would be more prudent to see what that will look like. Additionally, this bill does not address a major concern: What recourse does an Indiana resident have regarding payment of medical claims from a health insurance policy purchased from an out-of-state company that becomes insolvent and ordered into liquidation?

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**HB 1141 REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT (Braun)**

Allows a region within the state to apply for a "FASTLANE" grant from the Federal Highway Administration (or a grant from any other federal grant program) for highway funding and authorizes them to construct and maintain a highway within the boundaries of the local port authority. Creates a cumulative fund to supplement regional highway funding to provide local matching funds to the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) to offset the nonfederal share of the costs of construction or reconstruction of a state highway, bypass or interstate highway that will increase an existing state highway's traffic capacity within the boundaries of the authority. Establishes a regional supplemental highway fund for each authority. Provides that an authority may issue bonds payable from the fund. Allows INDOT,

when determining its long range construction program, to give special priority to construction projects for which an authority has agreed to provide local matching funds. Allows a county, municipality or township within the boundaries of an authority to transfer money to a fund from the county's, municipality's or township's general fund or rainy day fund (or other available fund). . . . **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports this enabling legislation that allows an area of the state to create a local port authority to provide supplemental local funding to build a priority highway project. If the local communities wish to pay more to fund a project, and the taxpayers in that region support the referendum, they should be allowed to do so. Then INDOT may (not shall) enhance the priority of that highway project to be built. **Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

**HB 1143 SMALL SCHOOL GRANTS (Friend)**  
Re-establishes a small school grant for school corporations having a current ADM (average daily membership) of less than 2,400. Appropriates from the state general fund an amount sufficient to make the grants for the 2017-2019 biennium. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This bill perpetuates the inefficiencies of small school districts instead of exploring consolidation of district-level administrative functions, as was recommended by the Kernan-Shepherd Commission. Moreover, this proposal undermines the progress that has been made in recent years to simplify the school funding formula. **Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

**HB 1154 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (Leonard)**  
Requires the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to give its annual presentation regarding the status of the unemployment compensation system to the Interim Study Committee on Employment and Labor (instead of the Budget Committee, as provided in current law). Modifies the law governing DWD's recordkeeping, release of records and confidentiality duties and obligations. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports DWD making the presentation regarding the status of the Unemployment Compensation System to the Interim Study Committee on Employment and Labor instead of the Budget Committee, because its purpose is more appropriate to digest and discuss unemployment-related issues. Further the Chamber supports data obtained within the unemployment compensation system to be provided to other governmental entities as long as it is only for statistical purposes and confidentiality is maintained. **Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**HB 1157 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES (Miller)**  
Requires the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Division of Government Efficiency and Financial Planning, to; (1) conduct a review of the various state reporting requirements for small businesses regarding their employees; (2) identify those duplicative state reporting requirements in current law that could be consolidated into one reporting procedure in a manner that is consistent with state and federal

legal requirements related to the reporting obligation; (3) identify the state statutes, rules or guidelines that would need to be amended or repealed in order to accomplish a consolidation of the duplicative state reporting requirement; and (4) conduct a cost benefit analysis of consolidating the duplicative state reporting requirements. Allows the OMB to establish a web site for the purpose of soliciting public comments and views regarding small business state reporting requirements that may be considered duplicative. . . . **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill will help identify ways that small businesses can more easily interact with state government requirements. **Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

**HB 1160 STUDY OF TAX COURT EFFECTIVENESS (Cherry)**  
Urges the Legislative Council to assign the topic of effectiveness of the Indiana Tax Court to an appropriate interim study committee for 2017. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Supreme Court conducted a comprehensive study of the Tax Court last summer and positive measures have already been put in place. **Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

**HB 1164 E-LIQUIDS AND MINORS (Schaibley)**  
Requires the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission to ensure that a minor cannot purchase e-liquid. Makes it a Class C infraction if a retailer knowingly or intentionally allows a minor access to e-liquids. Enhances this penalty to a Class B infraction if a retailer commits six violations in a 180-day period. Makes technical corrections. **Position: OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports enforcement of the current statute that prohibits a retailer from knowingly selling e-liquids to a minor. We are uncertain as to the extent that retailers are currently not abiding by the current statute; and thus are uncertain as to whether there is a need for more severe penalties. **Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**HB 1165 FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS ON UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES (Schaibley)**  
This bill provides that a person who knowingly or intentionally flies an unmanned aerial vehicle within 400 feet of a critical infrastructure facility commits a Class A misdemeanor. Defines "critical infrastructure facility". **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill is designed to protect electrical power generating facilities, substations, switching stations and electrical control centers. Increased security of the electrical grid will ensure reliable energy service, which can reduce costly shutdowns for all. **Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

**HB 1170 WARNING DEVICES ON FORKLIFTS (Mahan)**  
Requires the Occupational Safety Standards Commission to adopt a general industry standard not later than January 1, 2018, that requires a forklift operated on a worksite to be equipped with an audible reverse signal alarm that must be sounded whenever the forklift is operated in reverse gear. Requires

compliance with the standard beginning January 1, 2019.  
**Position: OPPOSE Reason:** OSHA does not specifically require backup alarms on powered industrial trucks, such as forklifts, but there are regulations that prohibit removing a backup alarm if a powered industrial truck is equipped with one by the manufacturer, 29 CFR 1917.43(c)(5). IOSHA could exceed federal OSHA regulations but has elected not to do so. The Chamber questions whether this legislation is necessary.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1175 LOCAL INCOME TAX COLLECTION (Culver)

Provides that for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017, the fiscal body of a county imposing a local income tax may adopt an ordinance providing that the county, rather than the department of state revenue, has the authority and responsibility for the administration, collection and enforcement of the local income tax. Specifies that in such a county: (1) taxpayers must file local income tax returns with the county treasurer of the county that imposed the tax and must pay the local income tax to the county treasurer of the county that imposed the tax; and (2) employers must remit withholdings of local income taxes to the county treasurer of the county that imposed the tax. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This bill creates the potential for employers to have to file numerous additional returns in the adopting counties subjecting them to unnecessary additional compliance burdens associated with the varying requirements and procedures established in each separate jurisdiction. The counties would have to establish their own processes not only for handling collections but also for amendments, penalties and refunds.  
**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### HB 1183 EMPLOYEE PAID SICK LEAVE (Lawson)



Provides that certain employers shall provide paid sick leave to employees of one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours of employment, up to a maximum of 40 hours of paid sick leave a year. Provides that the commissioner of labor shall enforce paid sick leave for employees and shall adopt rules to implement paid sick leave. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** Sixty-four percent of all workers in private industry (nationwide) had access to paid sick leave during the first quarter of 2016. Those employers that do not provide paid sick leave are more likely to be in the service and retail sectors, and would incur greater costs. A loss of jobs or reduction in hourly rates of pay could be the result of this legislation. The Chamber opposes benefit mandates on any employer.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1188 DISTRIBUTED GENERATION (Ober)

This bill requires: (1) the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) to post a summary of the results of the IURC's most recent periodic review of the basic rates and charges of an electricity supplier on its web site and the electricity supplier subject to the review to provide a link on its web site to the IURC's summary. It also amends the definition of a "private generation project" to include facilities that are

located on the same site or are contiguous to the host operation and are integrated with the host operation. It specifies that an electric utility or a steam utility is not required to distribute, transmit, deliver, or wheel electricity from a private generation project. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill is truly a compromise of longstanding issues that industrial users have had with Indiana's investor-owned utilities. It will not fix all of the concerns that the industrial users have expressed, but is a good first step in helping industrial users of energy to control costs. It has elements of competitive procurement, net metering, distributive generation and transparency of rates. It will serve as a building block of the Chamber's efforts to maintain Indiana's competitive edge when looking at energy costs that have risen over the past decade. See SB 309.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### HB 1192 BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT (Ober)

Provides that a local governmental unit that wishes to be certified as a broadband ready community must establish a procedure under which the unit promotes increasing the number of subscribers to broadband services in the unit after the unit is certified as a broadband-ready community. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill establishes good protocol for local communities to be certified as broadband ready.  
**Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

#### HB 1193 APPOINTMENT OF STATE OFFICERS (Ober)

Provides for the appointment of the attorney general by the governor after January 10, 2021. Provides for the state superintendent of public instruction to be appointed by the Governor after January 10, 2021. Requires the Governor to appoint the state superintendent from a list of three nominations submitted to the Governor by the State Board of Education. Makes conforming and technical amendments. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART/OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** The Chamber has a longstanding policy that states that the superintendent of public instruction should be appointed as opposed to elected. However, we feel that it should be a direct appointment by the Governor, not based on recommendations from the State Board of Education as directed by this legislation.  
**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1194 CERTIFIED TECHNOLOGY PARKS (Ober)

Provides that a certified technology park may capture up to \$5 million of incremental income tax and sales tax revenue every four years. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill removes the life ceiling on total caps of income and sales tax the certified technology parks can capture. This allows the successful parks to continue to flourish with the cap being renewed every four years.  
**Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

#### HB 1199 SMALL CLAIMS COURTS (Devon)

This bill increases the small claims jurisdictional amount from \$6,000 to \$30,000. It provides that the court shall endeavor to bring cases filed on the small claims docket to trial within 90

days. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill will allow businesses to settle more their disputes in a more cost-effective and timely manner by being allowed to bring larger claims to the small claims courts.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### HB 1208 STUDY OF WATER UTILITY SERVICE (Arnold)

Urges the Legislative Council to assign to the Interim Study Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications for study during the 2017 interim the topic of how adequate and affordable water utility service can be provided in areas of Indiana in which water utility service is inadequate or costly.

**Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber has long supported a comprehensive Indiana water policy to better manage this valuable resource and promote our water resources as a strong economic attractor. This study may be duplicative of the water study that was just conducted during the summer of 2016 by the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA). In addition, there are at least two Senate bills that, if passed into law, would give the IFA statewide authority to address this matter.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### HB 1209 ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT (Negele)

Makes organized retail theft a Level 5 felony for a person to knowingly: (1) take, procure, receive, conceal or otherwise exercise control over merchandise of a retail merchant; or (2) facilitate taking, procuring, receiving, concealing or exercising control over merchandise of a retail merchant; without the consent of the retail merchant or without paying the appropriate consideration for the merchandise, and with the intent to sell, deliver or distribute the merchandise to another person. It also provides that property with a retail or repurchase value of at least \$100 that is stolen during the commission of the crime of organized retail theft to be seized and forfeited. It allows a victim of the crime of organized retail theft to receive treble damages in a civil action concerning the crime. It adds organized retail theft to the list of crimes considered racketeering activity under the law concerning racketeer influenced and corrupt organizations.

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill should deter organized theft rings in retail and reduce retail business losses.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### HB 1211 TRANSBORDER GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (Stemler)

Establishes the Indiana-Kentucky Transborder Groundwater Authority. Requires the study of groundwater ownership rights shared by Indiana and Kentucky and the desirability of an interstate compact. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports a comprehensive Indiana water policy to better manage this valuable resource and promote our water resources as a strong economic attractor. The creation of a transborder groundwater compact may be premature and should be integrated into this statewide policy to assure its compatibility.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### HB 1212 WORK SHARING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT (Hatfield)

Establishes a work sharing unemployment insurance program. Requires an employer to submit a work sharing plan for approval by the commissioner of the Department of Workforce Development. Establishes the work sharing benefit as equal to an employee's unemployment benefit reduced by a percentage that is equivalent to the number of hours by which the employee's normal weekly work hours are reduced.

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber believes it is better for both the employer and the employee if employees are still working as opposed to being laid off. The program allows employers to retain workers at reduced hours in lieu of a layoff. The employee maintains benefits and is eligible to receive partial unemployment benefits. Based upon a recent Ball State University study, work may actually stabilize manufacturing income during an economic downturn if work share is available.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1213 OVERTIME COMPENSATION FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES (Hatfield)



Provides that certain employees must be paid compensation for employment in certain circumstances at a rate not less than 1.5 times the regular rate at which the employee is employed and, under certain circumstances, not less than two times the regular rate at which the employee is employed. Removes outdated language. Relocates language concerning the tip credit. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** Increases payroll costs for employers and, in some cases, could potentially lead to layoffs.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1220 STAFF PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS (McNamara)

Makes changes to factors that must be included in a school corporation's teacher performance evaluation plan. Provides that a professional teacher who is rated as highly effective or effective is required to receive a teacher evaluation only one time every five years. Provides that a: (1) probationary teacher; or (2) professional teacher who receives an evaluation of improvement necessary; must receive performance evaluations annually.

Makes technical and conforming amendments. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART/OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** It is important that teachers are evaluated on at least a yearly basis to provide important feedback to educators on their performance.

This is especially important for low-performing educators. Our students deserve the best from their teachers and allowing administrators to assess and evaluate their staff is critical.

We oppose the change in statute that teacher evaluations occur once every five years; it should be yearly at least.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1228 DISTRIBUTION OF CHOICE SCHOLARSHIPS (Candelaria Reardon)

Prohibits, with an exception, the Department of Education from distributing a choice scholarship for an eligible choice scholarship student to an eligible school if, for the immediately preceding school year, the eligible school is

placed in a category or designation of school performance that is lower than the category or designation of school performance in which the public school that serves the attendance area in which the eligible choice scholarship student resides is placed. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This legislation would prohibit voucher participation based on a private school's performance with no similar requirement for the traditional neighborhood public school. Would prevent parents the option to select the schools that best fit the unique needs of their individual children.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1230 REGULATION OF COAL COMBUSTION RESIDUALS (Wolkins)

This bill authorizes the Indiana Environmental Rules Board to adopt rules consistent with the regulations of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concerning standards for the disposal of coal combustion residuals in landfills and surface impoundments. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This makes corrections to existing law to allow the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to have delegated authority from EPA regarding disposal of coal combustion residuals (CCR). Currently, EPA has primacy over Indiana business that have CCR disposal issues.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### HB 1232 ELIMINATION OF TOWNSHIP BOARDS (Ziemke)

Specifies that: (1) in the case of a township board for which the members were elected in 2014, the township board is abolished on January 1, 2019; and (2) in the case of a township board for which the members were elected in 2016, the township board is abolished on January 1, 2021. Specifies that after a township board is abolished: (1) the county fiscal body is the fiscal body and legislative body of each township in the county; and (2) the county fiscal body shall exercise the legislative and fiscal powers assigned in the Indiana Code to township boards, including the authority to adopt the township's annual budget and to levy township property taxes for township funds. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Township functions are administered by the township executive, a separately elected official. Little purpose is served by having a three-person board oversee an elected official whose primary responsibilities are ministerial. The township boards are an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy within an unnecessary layer of local government. All of township government could and should be administered by other local government entities, as has been recognized and recommended by numerous studies over many years.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### HB 1240 GARNISHMENT OF WAGES (Hamm)

Provides that if: (1) a judgment debtor leaves employment with an employer who is garnishing the wages of the judgment debtor subject to a judgment obtained by a judgment creditor; (2) the judgment debtor subsequently returns to employment with the same employer; and (3) the judgment against the judgment debtor has not been satisfied; the judgment creditor

must obtain a new judgment against the judgment debtor before the employer of the judgment debtor is required to resume garnishment of the wages of the judgment debtor.

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** After returning to a previous employer, the employee may have a change in the status of a garnishment unbeknown to the employer. Obtaining a new judgement on a garnishment confirms to the employer that any debt obligation has not been satisfied and there remains grounds to execute a garnishment on the employee.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1247 PROPERTY TAX REPLACEMENT FEE (Karickhoff)

Permits a county council or a local income tax adopting body to establish an annual property tax replacement fee on any parcel receiving assessed value deductions or property tax credits that reduce the annual property tax liability on the parcel to less than the fee amount set by the county. Provides that the fee must be at least \$100 and not more than \$400.

Specifies that the property taxes paid on the parcel are a credit against the fee. Changes the county option amount from \$25 to \$100 for requiring the payment of property taxes and the property tax replacement fee, if any, in the May installment. Eliminates the \$5 minimum property tax statement processing fee if a county adopts the property tax replacement fee.

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** All properties receive the benefit of the services paid for from property taxes. Largely due to the extreme generosity of the supplemental homestead deduction, and other tax subsidies, many properties pay practically nothing for the benefits they enjoy, such as police and fire protection. Giving the local governments the ability to impose a nominal user fee so all properties share, to at least a small extent, in the expense of fundamental governmental services is completely reasonable, and only fair to the balance of the taxpaying community.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### HB 1266 PERFORMANCE AND PAYMENT BONDS (Gutwein)

Requires that public-private agreements must contain performance bond and payment bond requirements. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** While there is some cost additional associated with requiring bonds, there is also a substantial risk, both financial and otherwise, involved if a contractor fails to perform or pay its subcontractors and employees once a public work project is undertaken.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### HB 1267 FORMER OFFENDERS (Shackleford)

Commonly referred to as "Ban the Box". Prohibits a public employer from asking an applicant for employment to disclose orally or in writing, whether on an employment application or otherwise, information concerning the applicant's criminal record or history until the public employer has determined that the applicant meets the public employer's minimum employment qualifications. Provides that the requirement does not apply to employment with a law enforcement agency or

when federal or Indiana law provides otherwise. ... **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** Employers should provide equal employment opportunities for qualified individuals without discrimination on a protected basis. "Ban the Box" measures go beyond federal statutes by prohibiting employers from screening applicants on a case-by-case basis when considering criminal background history. The Chamber opposes any proposed state statute or local ordinance that is more restrictive than current federal law as interpreted and applied by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Under federal law, the EEOC prohibits the use of criminal records as a measure to exclude an applicant from employment without considering at least the following four factors: (1) whether the applicant committed the offense (if only an arrest); (2) the nature and gravity of the offense; (3) the time since the offense; and (4) the nature of the job for which the applicant has applied. No statute or ordinance should exceed these principles.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**HB 1276 PRODUCT LIABILITY ACTIONS (Torr)**  
Specifies causes of action that may constitute a product liability action. Repeals provisions pertaining to product liability actions that are based upon: (1) property damage resulting from asbestos; and (2) personal injury, disability, disease or death resulting from exposure to asbestos. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** In March 2016, the Indiana Supreme Court determined that Indiana's Statute of Repose for Product Liability for Asbestos was unconstitutional. This is the needed fix for that decision.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### **HB 1281 VARIOUS HIGHER EDUCATION MATTERS (Sullivan)**

Defines "prior learning assessment". Changes statute and provisions related to adult student grants. Amends provisions regarding renewal of certain scholarships and tuition and fee remissions. Allows the Commission for Higher Education to extend, with limitations, eligibility for certain grants or reductions in tuition or fees for recipients who used the grants or reductions in tuition or fees at postsecondary educational institutions that have closed. Changes the term "professional degree program" to "accelerated graduate or professional degree program" and amends the definition. Amends the provision regarding the use of renewals and extensions of certain grants or reductions in tuition or fees for accelerated graduate or professional degree programs. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Allows for adult students to go back to school to attain higher education with the help of financial aid and grants. This will allow for a stronger workforce and help to fix the achievement gap by allowing the current workforce to move up a rung on the career ladder.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

**HB 1283 AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION (Lehe)**  
Provides that after June 30, 2018, a school corporation, charter high school or accredited nonpublic high school may not be placed in the highest category or designation of school improvement unless the school corporation, charter high school

or accredited nonpublic high school offers as part of its high school curriculum at least one course in agriculture science. Provides that a student may receive an excused absence from school if the student: (1) participates or exhibits in a 4-H club or FFA event; or (2) is at least 14 years of age and assists a parent with farm work associated with the planting or harvesting of crops. **Position: OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** A school system should not be penalized from receiving a high grade based on the fact that they do not provide an agricultural education course. While we believe a well-rounded education is important, a school may not have the resources or community interest in supporting such a course.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### **HB 1300 FREE OR REDUCED UTILITY RATES IN INCENTIVE AREAS (Candelaria Reardon)**

Provides that if a political subdivision dedicates funds of the political subdivision to provide or pay for utility infrastructure in an incentive area, an investor-owned utility may furnish electric, gas, water or wastewater utility service at a free or reduced rate to any customer or class of customer that locates within the incentive area. It provides that a utility that furnishes utility service at a free or reduced rate within an incentive area is not considered to be in violation of a statutory prohibition against a utility charging or receiving less compensation from any person for any service rendered than the utility charges or receives from any other person for a similar service. The bill also provides that any customer or class of customer that receives utility service at a free or reduced rate within an incentive area is not considered to be in violation of a statutory prohibition against a person knowingly soliciting, accepting or receiving utility service at a free or reduced rate. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Indiana Chamber opposes the diversion of funds from other local government purposes to finance this bill. There are many other methods to promote local economic development. In addition, there could be a decrease in the utility receipts tax, utility services use tax and sales tax collections. We are working to control energy costs statewide, not just new customers in an incentive area.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### **HB 1302 SCHOOL REFERENDUM GRANTS (Candelaria Reardon)**

Provides a dollar for dollar state matching grant for a school corporation in which the voters approve an operating referendum tax levy after May 1, 2017. Specifies that a school corporation in which a charter school is located is not eligible for the grant. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** We have concerns that providing matching grants for school referendum funding would likely drain state budget resources unnecessarily. In addition, we do not support excluding charter schools from such a provision.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### **HB 1311 STATE AND LOCAL TAX ISSUES (Leonard)**

Provides that the minimum valuation applicable to the total amount of a taxpayer's assessable depreciable personal property

in a taxing district is reduced incrementally from 30% of the assessed value of the depreciable personal property in the taxing district to 20% over 10 years beginning with the January 1, 2018, assessment date. Eliminates the addbacks of a taxpayer's federal income tax deduction for income attributable to domestic production activities in the definitions of "adjusted gross income" under the adjusted gross income tax law and the financial institutions tax law. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The 30% depreciation floor applied to assessment of business personal property is a completely arbitrary standard, unrelated to the value of the property that serves only to create an artificially high assessment. This bill very responsibly phases in a reduction of the floor to a point that is more in line with an equitable assessment based on actual value of the property. Adding the manufacturers' deduction that is taken at the federal level back into a taxpayers taxable income undermines the incentive for manufacturers to conduct their activities in the United States, which is the purpose of the federal deduction.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### HB 1313 SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES (C. Brown)

Removes the exemptions to places where smoking is prohibited. Makes conforming changes. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber has a standing policy in favor of a ban on smoking in the workplace.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1315 LOCAL LABOR FOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS (C. Brown)

Requires that at least 25% of the labor employed by each contractor in any contractor tier on a public works project must be individuals who reside: (1) in the municipality, if the project is located in a municipality; or (2) in the county, if the project is not located in a municipality. Allows the public agency letting the contract for the public works project to make a determination in writing that sufficient labor is not available and to modify or waive the requirement. Includes the requirement for operating agreements, design-build projects and construction managers as constructors projects. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** While it is preferable to hire locally, this requirement may impact the number of competitive bids and thus increase labor costs for construction projects.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1320 CIGARETTE TAXES (C. Brown)

Increases the cigarette tax from \$0.995 per pack to \$2.995 per pack and uses the additional revenue (\$2 per pack) as follows: (1) transfers \$1 of the additional revenue per pack to the Indiana tobacco use prevention and cessation trust fund to be used for one or more of the following purposes: (A) to emphasize the prevention and reduction of tobacco use by minorities, pregnant women, children and youth, including youth with serious and emotional disturbances; (B) to encourage smoking cessation; and (C) to provide research on issues related to the reduction of tobacco use. (2) transfers \$1 of the additional revenue per pack to the medical residency education fund. **Position: SUPPORT IN**

**PART Reason:** Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in Indiana. One in five Hoosiers still smokes, making Indiana the 39th worst state in percentage of smokers. While the Chamber supports an increase in the cigarette tax, HB 1578 is more preferable because it's more comprehensive.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1322 EMPLOYEE TRAINING TAX CREDITS (Clere)

Provides a tax credit to employers who complete the requirements for a portable workforce credential that is required for a high wage, high demand job. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** See HB 1008.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1328 CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS FOR STATE PROJECTS (Forestal)

Provides that the plans and specifications for a state public works project or a highway or bridge construction or improvement project must take into account the possibility of a terrorist attack so as to minimize damage to life and property if such an attack occurs. **Position: OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** The Chamber believes the administration could order this on construction projects without the need for legislation.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1331 TELEMEDICINE AND MEDICAL SERVICES (Kirchhofer)

Removes the restriction on the prescribing of ophthalmic devices through telemedicine and sets conditions on when a provider may, through telemedicine, prescribe medical devices. Prohibits the Indiana Optometry Board from setting standards for the practice of ocular telemedicine or ocular telehealth that are more restrictive than the standards established for in person practice.

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The bill removes the restriction on the prescribing of ophthalmic devices through telemedicine, which was prohibited when the telemedicine bill passed in 2016. The Chamber supports the use of telemedicine because of the potential of increasing access to care and potential cost savings.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1341 RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Cherry)

Provides that one or more rural counties may develop a rural strategic development plan that may be submitted to the Office of Community and Rural Affairs and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) for joint approval. Provides that a plan must be developed in conjunction with: (1) the Indiana Works Council for the region; (2) the Regional Advisory Committee of Ivy Tech Community College; and (3) any cooperative owned utilities for the area. Specifies the requirements that must be included in a plan. Provides that grants from the rural economic development fund may not be made to a grant recipient unless the county in which the grant recipient is located has a jointly approved plan. Authorizes the Indiana Finance Authority to enter into a lease agreement with a broadband operator or other provider to manage and operate the

state broadband infrastructure systems in underserved areas. Specifies the requirements for a lease agreement, including a provision that requires “at cost” access to the broadband network for each municipally owned utility and each cooperative owned utility in a county, if the county has an approved plan. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART/OPPOSE IN PART REASON:** The Chamber supports the rural economic development planning aspects of this bill and coordination with regional works councils and regional advisory committee of Ivy Tech. The Chamber opposes the Indiana Finance Authority entering into a contract with a broadband provider to manage and operate the state broadband infrastructure. Doing this goes contrary to previous years of policy with enhancing broadband statewide, and the state has limited network facilities in rural areas.

**Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

#### HB 1348 LOCAL SERVICE FEES ON TAX-EXEMPT PROPERTY (Saunders)

Allows a county fiscal body to impose a local service fee on tax exempt property within the county (other than a building used for religious worship and the parcel of land on which such a building is located). Provides that after June 30, 2018, a municipal fiscal body may impose a local service fee on such tax exempt property within the municipality if the county fiscal body has not imposed a local service fee. Provides that the fiscal body of a county or municipality imposing a local service fee shall determine the amount of the fee to be imposed. Authorizes a fiscal body to exercise reasonable discretion in adopting different schedules of local service fee rates or making classifications in schedules of local service fee rates, based on variations in the costs of furnishing basic and essential government services, including capital expenditures required. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports the limited imposition of reasonable user fees on entities that utilize the services funded with property tax revenues.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### HB 1351 MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT VEHICLE RENTAL EXCISE TAX (Huston)

Excludes certain motorized equipment vehicles from the assessment of the personal property tax. Imposes an excise tax on the rental of those motorized equipment vehicles (excise tax). Provides procedures for the sourcing, collection, and distribution of the excise tax. Provides that the excise tax is apportioned and distributed to local governmental units in the same manner that property taxes are apportioned and distributed. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber is opposed to all personal property taxation for many economic development and tax policy reasons. We specifically support removing this type of rental property from personal property taxation. An excise tax is more logical and in this context provides a reasonable replacement.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### HB 1363 TAX CREDIT FOR MANUFACTURE OF ENERGY DEVICES (Hamilton)

The bill provides for a credit against a taxpayer’s state tax

liability for expenditures made by the taxpayer during a taxable year for depreciable assets that are reasonable and necessary for the manufacture or assembly of renewable energy production devices in Indiana. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill would encourage the investment into the manufacture and assembly of alternative energy technologies. It could potentially create manufacturing jobs while diversifying Indiana’s energy portfolio, which could lead to lower energy costs.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### HB 1371 PROPERTY TAX LIABILITY (M. Smith)

Provides that: (1) the true tax value of real property improvements shall be determined by using the cost approach, in which the value of real property improvements is equal to the estimated replacement cost (new) of the real property improvements, less any depreciation; and (2) the true tax value of the land on which the real property improvements are located is equal to the value of vacant land as specified in the land values determined by the county assessor. Requires that the same value of vacant land as specified in the land values must be used for all land within the same geographic neighborhood or geographic territory defined by the county assessor. Provides that this valuation method does not apply to certain real property for which a different method is specified by statute (including real property that has more than four rental units and is regularly used to rent furnish residential accommodations, real property used as a golf course, utility property, and agricultural land). ... **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This bill represents a wholesale change to the existing property tax assessment standards and would dictate assessments be established under methods that would not promote the just valuation of all properties. This would disrupt the entire market-based assessment system that has taken nearly 20 years develop since the Indiana Supreme Court found a system similar to what’s proposed by this bill to be unconstitutional.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### HB 1372 SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATIONS (M. Smith)

Provides that a school’s or school corporation’s category or designation of performance for the 2015-2016 school year may not be lower than the grade assigned to the school or school corporation by the state board of education for the 2013-2014 school year. Provides that, for a state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, and ending June 30, 2017, the amount that a school corporation may receive as part of a performance grant relating to test results shall be calculated using the higher of: (1) the percentage of passing scores on ISTEP program tests for the school for the 2013-2014 school year; or (2) the percentage of passing scores on ISTEP program tests for the school for the 2015-2016 school year. Provides that ISTEP program test scores, from the ISTEP program test taken in the spring of 2016, may not be used by a school corporation as part of an annual performance evaluation of a particular certificated employee unless the use of the ISTEP program test scores would improve the particular teacher’s annual performance rating. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** While we agree that a greater discussion needs to be had regarding teacher evaluations as a whole, we strongly feel that teacher

evaluations need to be tied to student objective data (including statewide assessments). Teachers should be evaluated on how their students perform, including mastery and growth. Local districts have the ability to choose the percentage to be used in determining teacher evaluations and 98% of teachers that are evaluated using this data are already rated highly effective or effective.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1374 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES (Moed)

Requires the Indiana Economic Development Corporation to recapture incentives from a recipient that: (1) makes a lower level of capital investment; (2) employs fewer individuals; or (3) pays less in wages; than specified in an incentive agreement. Requires employers with at least 100 employees to give 90 days written notice to affected employees before plant closings and mass layoffs that occur after June 30, 2017.

**Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber opposes this bill as current clawback provisions are sufficient.

**Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

#### HB 1382 CHARTER SCHOOLS (Behning)

Changes the definition of a charter school organizer. Provides that the executive director of the Indiana Charter School Board may hire staff. Requires each authorizer to establish a charter school Internet web page. Makes changes to the minimum standards for renewing a charter. Makes changes to the procedure for suspending an authorizer from authorizing a charter school. Provides that an authorizer is considered a state education authority within the meaning of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Provides that funding for the charter board consists of: (1) appropriations from the general assembly; (2) grants; and (3) administrative fees. Provides that a charter school located in a county containing a consolidated city must determine which students may attend the charter school by using a publicly verifiable random selection process. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill seeks to update provisions related to charter schools, charter school authorizers and other entities in order to create more transparency and accountability for such schools. Other provisions of this bill provide much needed cleanup.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1383 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS (Behning)

Requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules to require an elementary school teacher who initially receives a license under this chapter after June 30, 2021, to specialize in a specific content area. Provides that the Department of Education may not issue a general education elementary school teaching license to an individual who initially applies for a license after June 30, 2021. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** We support allowing new elementary school teachers to receive their teaching licenses in specific content areas. This may help with teacher shortage-related issues moving forward.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1384 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION (Behning)

Changes the definition of “graduation” for the high school graduation rate determination by specifying that students receiving a Core 40 diploma, a technical honors diploma, or an academic honors diploma are counted as graduates. Provides, for purposes of calculating a school’s graduation rate, that in the case of a high school student who has not attended the same school within the school corporation for at least 90% of a school year and has exited high school without a regular high school diploma and without transferring to another high school that grants a regular high school diploma during such school year, the department of education shall assign the student to the high school at which the student was enrolled for the greatest proportion of school days while enrolled in grades 9 through 12. Requires the State Board to include student mobility rates for purposes of calculating a school’s category or designation of school improvement. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** We are aware that failing students often may be counseled out of a traditional public school and into virtual charter schools as a last chance option. This can create issues with the virtual charter’s test scores and graduation rates. This language would allow for a more accurate graduation rate. We also support including student mobility rates for calculating a school’s category or designation of school improvement – the more information the better. We also support more transparency and accuracy in graduation rates as a whole.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1385 DUAL LANGUAGE PILOT PROGRAM (Behning)

Provides that \$25,000 is the maximum grant a school corporation or charter school may receive under the dual language immersion pilot program. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This is a needed cleanup provision for funding related to the pilot program.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1386 COMPETENCY BASED EDUCATION (Behning)

Establishes the competency based education pilot program. Provides that the Department of Education may award grants under the pilot program for competency based education programs from the innovation network school grant fund. Makes conforming amendments. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports competency-based education models that seek to allow students to utilize existing knowledge and aptitudes towards their degree programs. These models should have strong definitions of learning outcomes, measurements of student learning and alignment to workforce systems whether in the K-12 or higher education arenas.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1388 BATTERY ON A UTILITY WORKER (Moseley)

This bill makes battery on a utility worker a Level 6 felony instead of a Class B misdemeanor if the battery is committed against a utility worker engaged in the ordinary course of the

utility worker's employment. Makes the offense a Level 5 felony if the battery involved the placement of any bodily fluid on a utility worker and the person knew or recklessly failed to know that the bodily fluid was infected with hepatitis, tuberculosis or human immunodeficiency virus. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Adding utility employees to the same section in statute of crimes against law enforcement officers, provides needed protection to workers that often interface with people in difficult situations without the ability to protect themselves.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### HB 1389 TEACHER BONUSES (Clere)

Establishes the testing out of college credit teacher bonus program and fund. Provides that a teacher who teaches an advanced placement course, international baccalaureate class, or a class to prepare a student to take a College Level Examination Program exam is entitled to receive a bonus or stipend if a student obtains certain threshold scores. Provides that a school corporation or charter school shall receive annual grants to pay bonuses or stipends to teachers who teach prerequisites of courses in which a student obtains college credit on an advanced placement, international baccalaureate, or CLEP exam. Establishes the career and technical education teacher bonus program and fund. Provides that a career and technical education teacher is entitled to receive a bonus or stipend for each student who: (1) completes a career and technical education program approved by the state board and taught by the teacher; and (2) earns certain industry recognized certifications or credentials. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** We support rewarding teachers with additional compensation when their students perform well on assessments that will advance their college or career goals. A student receiving positive scores on such assessments will help them potentially receive college credit, which will advance them faster through school and with less debt.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1396 TEACHER LICENSING FOR MILITARY SPOUSES (McNamara)

Requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules, including emergency rules that establish procedures to expedite the issuance, renewal or reinstatement of a teacher license to a military spouse whose husband or wife is assigned to a duty station in Indiana. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This helps not only with teacher shortages in schools but also to help more families get back to work.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1397 WORK OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM (McNamara)

Creates the work opportunity grant program to provide grants to employers that continue to employ certain eligible employees into a second year of employment. Provides that the Department of Workforce Development administers the program. Creates a purchasing preference for employers that are awarded a grant under the program. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This legislation would be a means to encourage

employers to hire those who are currently unemployed or have exhausted unemployment insurance benefits, plus veterans returning from deployment.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1408 NONRESIDENTIAL ON-SITE SEWAGE SYSTEM PERMIT (Wesco)

This bill requires the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) to grant or deny an application for a permit to construct a commercial/business on-site sewage system within 45 days (instead of the current 90 days) after the permit application is submitted to the ISDH. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This would allow development to be conducted quicker without costly delays.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### HB 1414 LOCAL INCOME TAXES (Thompson)

Expires the existing local income tax law on December 31, 2021, and adds a new local income tax law effective in 2022 and thereafter. Makes numerous changes relating to the recodification of the local income tax structure. Specifies that the legislative council shall provide for the preparation and introduction of legislation in the 2018 session of the general assembly to correct cross references and make other changes to the Indiana Code, as necessary, to bring other provisions of the Indiana Code into conformity with this act. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** This bill represents the ongoing effort to simplify Indiana's hodgepodge of local income tax laws. The Chamber supports the larger objective of making local income taxation options more uniform and the legislative efforts to accomplish this technically difficult task.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### HB 1419 AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIPS (Mahan)

Provides that for purposes of determining the adjusted average daily membership (ADM) for distributions for state fiscal years beginning after June 30, 2017, a school corporation's February count of ADM for a high school within the school corporation is the high school's February count of ADM, plus the number of students who are in their fourth year of high school and were included in the high school's September count of ADM who graduated with a Core 40 or an academic honor's degree before the February count of ADM. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The count of students in a school corporation cohort should be as transparent as possible, which means including students who graduated early from high school in the count. School corporations should not be penalized for graduating their students early.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1433 SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES (Eberhart)

Allows Sunday carryout sales of alcoholic beverages by all retailers and dealers. Allows all dealers to sell cold beer. Prohibits a dealer (not including a package liquor store) from selling miniature "airplane size" bottles of liquor. Requires a

dealer (not including a package liquor store) to display alcoholic beverages in a separate area that a minor may enter only if accompanied by an adult. Repeals a provision that limits the commodities that a package liquor store may sell. Repeals a provision that prohibits the delivery of alcoholic beverages to a retailer or dealer on Sunday. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports repealing the prohibition of Sunday sales of alcoholic beverages portion of this bill, as well as the commodities repeal.

**Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

#### HB 1449 TEACHER INDUCTION PILOT PROGRAM (Devon)

Makes changes to who may submit a plan to participate in the career pathways and mentorship program. Establishes the Indiana new educator induction program to give new teachers, principals, and administrators mentoring support. Provides that grants for the program may be made from the system for teacher and student advancement grant fund. Provides that, not later than July 1, 2018, and each July thereafter, the State Board of Education shall submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly regarding the status of the program. Provides that the program expires July 1, 2027. Urges the Legislative Council to assign to an appropriate study committee for study during the 2017 legislative interim the topic of whether it is appropriate to require teachers to participate in a new educator induction program before being eligible to receive a practitioner license. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** We have long supported career pathways and mentorship programs for Indiana educators, just like for all Hoosier employees across the state. This will help advance their careers, help them achieve leadership positions in their schools and likely help with retention.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1458 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (Morris)

Provides that an individual who is an employer and makes contributions to the unemployment insurance benefit fund for the individual's own service: (1) is eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits after filing a claim for benefits; and (2) is exempt from the requirements of the unemployment insurance law in determining the individual's eligibility to receive unemployment insurance benefits.

**Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber is concerned about the potential significance this bill could have on the impact on the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1463 TEACHERS' DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN (Carbaugh)

Establishes the teachers' defined contribution plan as an account within the Indiana state teachers' retirement fund. Provides that an individual who begins employment with a school corporation in a covered position that would otherwise be eligible for membership in the fund may elect to become a member of the plan. Provides that an individual who does not elect to become a member of the plan becomes a member of the fund ... **Position:**

**SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports giving teachers a choice when it comes to their benefit plans. Often younger teachers have less health care needs and would benefit by having more money in their pockets as opposed to being used for health care costs. This provides more options for teachers should they choose to move to a different school district or leave the profession entirely.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1464 WORK SHARING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (Carbaugh)

Establishes a work sharing unemployment insurance program. Requires an employer that desires to participate in the work sharing unemployment insurance program to submit a work sharing plan for approval by the commissioner of the Department of Workforce Development. Establishes the work sharing benefit as equal to an affected employee's unemployment benefit reduced by a percentage that is equivalent to the number of hours by which an affected employee's normal weekly work hours are reduced divided by the employer's number of normal weekly work hours. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** See HB 1212.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1469 PHARMACY REMOTE DISPENSING FACILITY REGISTRATION (Ober)

Establishes a registration for pharmacy remote dispensing facilities. Sets forth requirements for the registration and requirements of the remote dispensing facility. Allows pharmacy technicians to staff a remote dispensing facility with supervision from a pharmacist through the use of computers, videos, and audio technology. Includes pharmacy interns in the limitations of the number of individuals that may be supervised by a pharmacist, and specifies that not more than three of the six individuals being supervised by a pharmacist may be pharmacy technicians in training. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This is telemedicine for pharmacists. See HB 1331.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1470 MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT DATA (Ober)

Establishes the Management and Performance Hub (MPH) as an agency within the executive department of state government to manage the open data web site and coordinate the state's open data program. Provides that a government entity should strive to make its data in a machine readable and open format. Establishes the government data policy committee to: (1) develop standards for data collection by state agencies in a machine readable and open format; (2) develop a comprehensive strategy and architecture for use of open data by government entities; (3) adopt a system of best practices for maintaining confidentiality of personal and private information; and (4) establish a tiered classification scheme for access to government data. Recodifies existing statutes relating to establishing and maintaining existing state government data web sites. .... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill codifies aspects of the MPH, which aggregates various state agency data in a way to ensure maximum utility, coordination and benefit for policymakers (with better application

of data-driven policy decisions) and Indiana citizens. It requires agencies of state government to have their data machine-readable and ensures personal confidentiality in this system.

**Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

#### HB 1480 BATTERY ON UTILITY EMPLOYEES (VanNatter)

This bill makes battery a Level 6 felony instead of a Class B misdemeanor if the battery is committed against a utility worker engaged in the ordinary course of the utility worker's employment. It also makes the offense a Level 5 felony if the battery results in bodily injury to the utility worker. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** See HB 1388.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### HB 1486 HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE AND COST INFORMATION (Schaibley)

Requires health care providers and health plans to provide to covered individuals and patients certain information concerning the cost of health care services. Requires health care providers to publish a payment policy for medically necessary health care services not covered by a third-party payment source. Requires the Department of Insurance to establish, post, and maintain on the department's Internet web site a standardized prior authorization form for notice or authorization for health care services. Requires a state employee health plan, an accident and sickness insurer and a health maintenance organization to: (1) use only the standardized prior authorization form; (2) allow electronic submission of the form and supporting information; and (3) respond verbally and electronically within 48 hours. ...

**Position: OPPOSE Reason:** While this bill attempts to promote transparency, this is not the right approach. This causes problems for both providers and health insurers.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1490 CIGARETTE TAX (T. Brown)

Increases the cigarette tax by \$1 to \$1.995 per pack of regular size cigarettes (and a corresponding increase for larger cigarettes) and uses the additional revenue for reimbursements of Medicaid providers. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** See HB 1320.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1495 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (Wolkins)

Corrects or resolves various issues related to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM).

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** IDEM annually identifies issues that require correction in its "cleanup" bill.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### HB 1503 VENTURE CAPITAL TAX CREDITS (Smaltz)

Increases the total tax credits available under the venture capital investment tax credit for the provision of qualified investment capital to a particular qualified Indiana business to be the lesser of:

(1) the total amount of qualified investment capital provided to the qualified business multiplied by: (A) 40%, in the case of a qualified business that is located within a low income community; or (B) 25%, in the case of any other qualified business (other than a qualified business located in a low income community); or (2) \$1.5 million; for calendar years after 2017. Increases the total amount of tax credits that may be approved by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation for qualified investment capital from \$12 million to \$15 million. Incorporates the definition of "low income community" used in the federal new markets tax credit for purposes of determining a low income community in Indiana. Provides that the credit is assignable. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** These provided changes may stimulate additional interest in investing in qualified Indiana business opportunities and possibly help with rural economic development.

**Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

#### HB 1506 LIMIT ON ASSESSED VALUE DEDUCTIONS (Friend)

Provides that the sum of assessed value deductions for a homestead may not exceed 75% of the gross assessed value of the homestead. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Homesteads in Indiana currently enjoy one of the most favorable deductions in the country (the supplemental homestead deduction), making large portions of the value of their property untaxable and making the disparity between what homeowners pay and what businesses pay on property of equal value nearly the highest in the county. This bill does a slight rebalancing, reducing the disparity modestly. The tax base has been seriously compromised by this extreme deduction and changes in this bill will help correct the situation. Restricting the deductions to 75% (and taxing the property at only 25% of its value) is more than reasonable.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### HB 1528 PERSONAL LEAVE FOR EMPLOYEES (Dvorak)



Provides that certain employees of certain employers are entitled to take: (1) 24 hours of paid leave; and (2) 16 hours of unpaid leave; in a 12-month period. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** Similar to reasons of HB 1183.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1529 DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS (Dvorak)

This bill provides that after June 30, 2017, an industrial customer of an electricity supplier may not opt out of participating in an energy efficiency program established by the electricity supplier. It provides that an industrial customer that, before July 1, 2017, opts out of participating in an electricity supplier's energy efficiency program shall, not later than December 31, 2017, subsequently participate in the same or a different energy efficiency program. **Position: OPPOSE**

**Reason:** Removes the provision in current law that provides an opportunity to the larger energy users in the state to opt out of the current energy efficiency program and be able to use those realized savings in a way that the company sees as the best use

of those dollars, which may include energy efficiency projects if they make good economic sense. The Chamber understands that this mandatory participation would not cause a shift in costs from other electric power rate payers in the state.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### HB 1530 PHASEOUT OF TUITION AT PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES (Dvorak)

Freezes the Indiana resident tuition rates that may be charged by state educational institutions for the 2017-2018 academic year. Phases down the maximum Indiana resident tuition rates that may be charged by state educational institutions. Provides that for the 2027-2028 academic year and for each academic year thereafter, the state educational institutions may not charge any tuition to students who are Indiana residents. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber encourages the state's institutions of higher education to strive towards affordability and to limit tuition increases; however, we oppose the establishment of tuition caps through legislation. We also feel that there are significant opportunities in the state for grants and dollars to be used for college tuition and that students should provide some "skin in the game" when it comes to tuition.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1531 MONTHLY SERVICE OUTAGE CAPS FOR ELECTRIC UTILITIES (Dvorak)



This bill requires the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) to adopt rules for determining for each investor-owned electric utility a monthly service outage cap that applies to all monthly billing periods for that electric utility in a year. It provides that the IURC's rules must include a procedure under which an electric utility must provide a refund or credit to all customer classes in any part of the utility's assigned service area in which the number of service outage hours exceeds the electric utility's monthly service outage cap. It provides that an electric utility may not recover the cost of any refunds or credits provided by the electric utility under this billing procedure. It does not matter whether the disruption of service is the result of a weather related event, an act of God, an emergency situation, another event or situation beyond the control of the utility, a vegetation management issue or a tree related condition, or a planned or scheduled outage. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This bill would require electric utilities to pay all customers a penalty for outages that may be outside of their planning or control, including acts of God. Ultimately, this would likely increase the cost of service to customers by requiring unnecessary maintenance and planning by the utilities.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### HB 1544 COVERAGE FOR ABUSE DETERRENT OPIOID (Davisson)

Requires that if an abuse deterrent opioid analgesic is available with a certain active ingredient, state employee health plans, policies of accident and sickness insurance, and health maintenance organization contracts must provide coverage for at least one abuse deterrent opioid analgesic that provides that active ingredient. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber

has a standing policy position to oppose mandates to health benefits, as they will bring additional costs to health insurance plans. This bill also allows physicians to potentially bypass prescribing cheaper generic opioids first and instead prescribe more expensive abuse-deterrent opioids.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1546 USE OF TAX INCREMENT FINANCING REVENUES (Davisson)

Authorizes redevelopment commissions, redevelopment authorities and military base reuse authorities to use excess tax increment financing revenues to do the following: (1) Provide loans to governmental entities for operational expenses. (2) Provide grants to schools or social service organizations for career and technical programs that would benefit the local workforce and for vocational and substance abuse rehabilitation for individuals who have been convicted of misdemeanors or low level felonies. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** Tax Increments Financing (TIF) revenues, if not used for their intended purposes, should revert back to the government entity which provided them initially.

**Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

#### HB 1556 ENTERPRISE ZONES (GiaQuinta)

Eliminates the 30% minimum personal property tax depreciation floor for depreciable personal property that is located within an enterprise zone on an assessment date beginning after December 31, 2017. Amends the definition of "qualified investment" for purposes of an enterprise zone investment deduction after 2017 to include new information technology equipment, new research and development equipment, and new logical distribution equipment. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber is opposed to all personal property taxation. The 30% depreciation floor is a particularly egregious aspect of this taxation in that it arbitrarily creates a minimum assessment level (unrelated to the actual value of the property.) Any method to address this artificial and unfair practice is welcomed and supported.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### HB 1564 CITY AND TOWN COURT JUDGES (Beumer)

Repeals the requirement that became effective on July 1, 2015, that all city court judges and town court judges must be attorneys in good standing admitted to the practice of law in Indiana. Provides that only those city court judges and town court judges who were required to be attorneys in good standing before July 1, 2015, are required to be attorneys in good standing after June 30, 2017. Provides that a judge of a city or town court in a city or town with a population of 10,000 or less is not required to be an attorney. Makes conforming amendments. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** Under current law, judges of all city and town courts are required to be attorneys in good standing and admitted to the practice of law in Indiana by June 30, 2015. This bill repeals that statute. The Chamber is unaware of a just reason why this should be repealed.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1567 INCOME TAX DEDUCTION (Hatfield)

The bill provides an income tax deduction for expenses incurred for drinking water and sewer services provided to a taxpayer's principal residence by a public utility. **Position: OPPOSE**

**Reason:** While we would all benefit from this personally, the bill is not good for business or the state. It would have a significant negative impact on the state general fund revenue, reducing it by an estimated \$58.8 million to \$94 million annually. In addition, counties imposing a local income tax will experience a decrease. Local income tax collections on a statewide basis could be reduced by as much as \$43.5 million in FY 2018, meaning funding for other priorities would suffer.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### HB 1578 CIGARETTE TAXES AND SMOKING AGE (Kirchhofer)

Increases the cigarette tax by \$1.50 to \$2.495 per pack of regular size cigarettes and a corresponding increase for larger cigarettes. Raises the age from 18 to 21 years of age for prohibitions and crimes concerning the sale, purchase, and possession of cigarettes and other tobacco products. Makes a corresponding change to the laws concerning e-cigarettes, tobacco retailer permits and admission to establishments where smoking is permitted. Repeals employment protections for individuals who smoke cigarettes or use other tobacco products. Appropriates for each year of the 2017-2019 biennium \$35 million from the tobacco master settlement agreement fund to the tobacco use prevention and cessation trust fund for the state department of health to implement the long range state plan for the prevention and reduction of the usage of tobacco and tobacco products in Indiana. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** One in five Hoosiers still smokes, making Indiana the 39th worst state in percentage of smokers. Moreover, tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in Indiana. And smokers start early – with 95% of all smokers starting before the age of 21; but raising the smoking age to 21 would deter 4,100 youth from the habit each year. Tobacco also costs Indiana \$6 billion annually in health care costs and lost productivity. This bill is a good comprehensive approach to addressing concerns related to smoking.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1588 FIREARMS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY (Lucas)

Repeals statutes prohibiting the carrying or possession of firearms on: (1) school property; and (2) a school bus. Provides that the state of Indiana may not regulate: (1) firearms, ammunition, and firearm accessories; (2) the ownership, possession, carrying, transportation, registration, transfer, and storage of firearms, ammunition, and firearm accessories; or (3) commerce in and taxation of firearms, firearms ammunition, and firearm accessories. Provides certain exceptions. Provides that any provision of an ordinance, measure, enactment, rule, or policy enacted by the state pertaining to firearms regulation is void. ... **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber supports employers' right to set policy as they see fit on their own property.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1589 RESERVE AND NATIONAL GUARD MEMBER BENEFITS (Lucas)

Provides a tax credit against state tax liability each taxable year to an employer who employs a member of the National Guard or a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States who is called to active duty. Excludes from the determination of financial eligibility for need based financial aid certain benefits received by veteran students. Allows members of the Indiana reserves to receive a scholarship from the National Guard tuition supplement program. Makes certain changes to the program. Provides funding for the program. Provides for state educational institution students who are members of the Indiana National Guard or the reserves and are called to active duty during an academic term to receive: (1) a tuition refund or credit; or (2) reenrollment in courses not completed due to active duty status. Requires the department of workforce development, under certain circumstances, to give: (1) a member of the armed forces of the United States, reserves, or National Guard; or (2) the spouse of a member of the armed forces of the United States, reserves, or National Guard; priority for placement in any federal or state employment or training program administered by the department. (Current law provides that this priority be given only to members of the National Guard or their spouses.) **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports the part of the bill that provides a tax credit against state tax liability each taxable year to an employer who employs a member of the National Guard or Reserves who is called to active duty.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1597 LOCATION OF WIND TURBINE FACILITIES (Saunders)



The bill establishes minimum setback requirements for wind power devices. It provides that an ordinance or amended ordinance regarding construction or location of wind power devices may not take effect unless the construction or location of wind power devices within the county, municipality or township has been approved by voters in a public question. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This bill would slow the process for the construction of wind turbine facilities. It would have a chilling effect on any such business associated with the construction of wind turbine facilities. It also could affect property and contract rights. Simply put, it has the potential to prevent the development of any wind turbine facilities in some counties.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### HB 1601 CERTIFIED TECHNOLOGY PARKS (Huston)

Requires a certified technology park be recertified every three years, starting January 1, 2018. (Under current law, a certified technology park is required to be recertified every four years.) Requires the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), to develop metrics for measuring the performance of a certified technology park during a review period. Requires the metrics to include: (1) the criteria to be used to analyze and evaluate each category of information furnished by a certified technology park to the IEDC during the course of a review;

and (2) a set of minimum threshold requirements for performance to be achieved regarding each category of information. Provides that a certified technology park must meet the minimum threshold requirements for performance set forth in the metrics before it may be recertified. ... **Position:** **SUPPORT Reason:** This bill helps clarify the criteria used to measure the results and effectiveness of certified technology parks in Indiana for recertification.  
**Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

enrollment of each school building. Requires the department to provide the information to the school corporation and to post the results of the review on the department's web site. **Position:** **SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** We support studies to determine whether smaller school districts should consider consolidation, as this could help save much-needed financial resources and provide students with more learning opportunities.  
**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1605 UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (Stemler)

Extends to full-time workers a partial unemployment benefit for an individual who accepts work that pays less than the individual's unemployment benefit. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This is a thoughtful approach to encourage and incentivize individuals to accept employment under this situation. At a minimum, this approach ought to be discussed further.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1611 TAX INCENTIVES FOR HIRING EX-OFFENDERS (Mayfield)

Provides a tax credit against state tax liability each taxable year for a taxpayer that hires an ex-felon. Specifies that the amount of the credit is \$3,000 for each qualified individual the employer hires during the taxable year. Provides that the maximum amount of credits allowed per state fiscal year may not exceed \$1 million in a state fiscal year ending before July 1, 2018, and may not exceed \$2.5 million in the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018, or in a subsequent state fiscal year. Requires a reporting on the tax credit before August 1, 2020. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The cost of incarcerating offenders is very high and employment would surely reduce the recidivism and the associated costs to the state. This credit would likely be money well spent in most cases.  
**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### HB 1614 EARLY EDUCATION GRANT PILOT PROGRAM (Moed)

Provides that the early education grant pilot program may include eligible providers in any county. (Current law provides that the program may include eligible providers in not more than five counties.) **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** While we support expanding the pre-K pilot program this legislative session, we have concerns about removing the language regarding the original five counties in the program. We want to ensure sustainability in the five original counties as well as move to new counties within the state, as determined by the fiscal dollars available. Thus, the Chamber prefers HB 1004.  
**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1640 SCHOOL BUILDINGS (Candelaria Reardon)

Requires the Department of Education to conduct a review of each school building in a school corporation, including: (1) the physical condition of each school building; and (2) the student

# SENATE BILLS

## SB 3 PAID PERSONAL LEAVE (Randolph)

Urges the Legislative Council to assign to a study committee during the 2017 legislative interim the topic of paid personal leave from employment. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** See HB 1183.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

## SB 8 PUBLIC INITIATIVES (Stoops)

Provides that the people of Indiana may propose and adopt amendments to the Constitution of the State of Indiana and propose and enact statutes independent of the General Assembly through initiative. Provides that the people of Indiana may approve or reject through referendum any statute or part of any statute enacted by the General Assembly. This proposed amendment has not been previously agreed to by a general assembly. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The purpose of the General Assembly is to have elected representatives fully consider what laws need to be enacted after complete and thorough examination and debate based on the best overall interests of the state. Public initiatives are a recipe for populist movements to seek influence over and remove this function from the proper discretion of the General Assembly. As an extreme example to demonstrate the concern, it is conceivable that a majority of self-interested voters could elect to alter or prohibit any tax they don't like to pay, then impose a high tax on some minority group of taxpayers.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

## SB 11 COVERAGE FOR ABUSE DETERRENT OPIOIDS (Merritt)

Requires that if an abuse deterrent opioid analgesic is available with a certain active ingredient, state employee health plans, policies of accident and sickness insurance and health maintenance organization contracts must provide coverage for at least one abuse deterrent opioid analgesic that provides that active ingredient. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** HB 1544.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

## SB 23 USE OF CONSUMER REPORTS FOR EMPLOYMENT PURPOSES (Randolph)

Prohibits an employer from using a consumer report for employment purposes unless certain conditions apply. Allows a consumer to bring a civil action against an employer for a violation of the provision. Provides that if the attorney general has reason to believe that an employer has violated the provision, the attorney general may bring one or both of the following: (1) An action to enjoin the violation. (2) An action to recover damages sustained by Indiana residents as a result of the violation. Makes it: (1) a Class B infraction for a knowing or intentional violation of the provision; or (2) a Class A infraction if an employer has a prior unrelated judgment for a violation of the provision. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, first passed in 1970, requires that employers get permission from candidates before checking their credit. An employee or prospective

employee must give consent for reports to be provided to employers. That being said, small employers need every tool they can use to make smart hiring decisions. Credit reports provide objective information about a person's past behavior. Employers have the right to know about the integrity and history of employees they intend to employ.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

## SB 35 TEACHER EVALUATIONS (Ford)

Provides that a school corporation may use objective measures of student achievement as part of a teacher evaluation plan.

(Current law provides that the use of an objective measure of student achievement is required as part of a teacher evaluation plan.) **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** See HB 1372.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

## SB 71 FAIR PAY IN EMPLOYMENT (Breau)

Provides that (1) it is an unlawful employment practice to pay wages that discriminate based on sex, race, or national origin for the same or equivalent jobs; and (2) the civil rights commission has jurisdiction for investigation and resolution of complaints of these employment actions. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This is unnecessary legislation. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 makes it illegal to have a disparity on wages based on sex: No employer shall discriminate between employees on the basis of sex by paying wages to employees at a rate less than the rate paid to employees of the opposite sex.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

## SB 72 COVERAGE FOR PHARMACIST CARE (Grooms)

Requires an accident and sickness insurer that enters into a preferred provider agreement to (1) reimburse for health care service provided by a pharmacist within the scope of practice to the same extent and in the same manner as the insurer would reimburse certain other health care providers (reimbursement); and (2) demonstrate an adequate number of pharmacists within a reasonable proximity to insureds.

Requires a preferred provider agreement to provide for the reimbursement. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber has a standing policy that opposes mandates to insurance policies. Some would consider this reimbursement parity; we would consider this price fixing.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

## SB 75 DRUG TESTING OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPLICANTS (Ford)

Requires an individual to undergo a drug test as a condition of the individual's initial eligibility for unemployment benefits (benefits) if the individual (1) was discharged from employment by the individual's most recent employer because of the individual's unlawful use of a controlled substance; or (2) is an individual for whom suitable work is only available in an occupation that the United States Department of Labor has determined by rule is an occupation that regularly conducts drug testing. If the individual tests positive or refuses to take a drug test, provides that the individual is ineligible for

waiting period or benefit rights for the week in which the positive test results or refusal occurred and until (1) the individual earns remuneration in employment in at least eight weeks; and (2) the remuneration earned equals or exceeds the product of the individual's weekly benefit amount multiplied by eight. ... **Position: OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** Uncertain why this legislation is necessary. If an individual is discharged from employment for use of a controlled substance, it is typically documented as fired for just cause or gross misconduct, and the individual would therefore be deemed ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**SB 79 MARION COUNTY COURTS (Merritt)**  
Provides for the selection of Marion Superior Court judges. Establishes the 14-member Marion County judicial selection committee. Provides that, when the committee learns of a vacancy on the court, the committee follows certain procedures that conclude in the committee sending the names of three nominees to the Governor. Requires the Governor to appoint one of the nominees as judge to fill the vacancy. ...  
**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** See HB 1036.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**SB 83 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE ISSUES (Boots)**  
Creates a supplemental dealer's permit, which may be issued only to a holder of a beer, wine or liquor dealer's permit. Allows permit holder to sell alcoholic beverages for carryout on Sunday. Establishes fees for a supplemental dealer's permit. Requires the fees to be deposited in the enforcement and administration fund of the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission. Allows the holder of a package liquor store permit, farm winery permit or microbrewery permit to sell carryout alcoholic beverages on Sunday without a supplemental dealer's permit. Allows a minor to be on the licensed premises of a package liquor store if the minor is employed by the store or accompanied by the minor's parent or guardian who is at least 21 years of age. Eliminates residency requirements for alcoholic beverage dealers. Repeals a provision that limits the commodities that a package liquor store may sell. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Indiana Chamber supports repeal of the current prohibition on the sale of alcoholic beverages for carryout on Sunday. Current law is antiquated and anti-competitive.  
**Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

**SB 88 SCHOOL CALENDAR (Leising)**  
Prohibits public schools and accredited nonpublic schools from beginning student instructional days for the school year before the fourth Monday in August, beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. Makes the change effective for collective bargaining agreements and contracts negotiated after June 30, 2017. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Indiana Chamber believes individual school corporations should determine their start and end dates. While this proposal does not specifically state as such, we become very concerned when proposals include provisions that would shorten or limit the length of the school year. Student instructional time in Indiana already ranks among the shortest in the country and the world. Even our highest performing schools have significant opportunities

to improve student learning, but that cannot be accomplished by having students attend less school rather than more. Improving educational achievement ought to be the focus, which would result in adding more instructional days instead of eliminating them. We appreciate language in the bill to coordinate with large employers, but alignment may not work with all employers, and as such should continue to be a locally-driven decision.  
**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

**SB 106 AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP COUNTS IN SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA (Head)**  
Provides that for purposes of determining the adjusted average daily membership (ADM) for distributions for state fiscal years beginning after June 30, 2017, the school corporation's February count of ADM is the greater of the school corporation's September or February count of ADM. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** To promote accountability in the school funding formula, we support multiple count days and other funding mechanisms that require all dollars – including tuition, categorical programs and federal funds – to follow the student. This legislation would allow school corporations to keep dollars after the second ADM count should students leave said corporation.  
**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

**SB 108 EDUCATION MATTERS (Kruse)**  
Provides that when a school corporation authorizes an absence to permit a student to attend any educationally related non-classroom activity, the student may not be recorded as being absent on any date for which the excuse is operative and may not be penalized by the school. Provides changes in statute regarding school improvement plan requirements. Makes changes to the time frame, from four to six years, in which the State Board may take over a failing school. Provides that a principal or superintendent, or the principal's or superintendent's designee, may recommend an individual to participate in the Indiana high school equivalency diploma program. **Position: OPPOSE IN PART/NEUTRAL IN PART Reason:** We strongly feel that the trigger threshold of the State Board of Education intervention for failing schools should be kept at the current state of four years instead of six years. It is important to keep our schools strong and accountable for our students; six years is simply too long before considering intervention – our students deserve better.  
**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

**SB 109 ACCREDITATION OF SCHOOLS (Kruse)**  
Provides that the State Board of Education may accredit a nonpublic school that has: (1) received a provisional or candidate accreditation from a nationally or regionally recognized accrediting body recognized by the State Board; or (2) demonstrated to the State Board the nonpublic school's accomplishments based on the nonpublic school's performance in another state. Provides that the State Board may authorize a school participating in the choice scholarship program or that receives contributions from a scholarship granting organization to sponsor another nonpublic school that has demonstrated to the State Board the nonpublic school's

competency or accomplishments and accredit or provisionally accredit the nonpublic school. Provides that the State Board may accredit a nonpublic school that enters into a contract with the state board to become a freeway school at the time the nonpublic school enters the contract. Makes technical corrections. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The State Board of Education should have the option to accredit such a school if it is already nationally accredited and that national accreditation is already recognized by the State Board.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 111 SCHOOL CALENDAR (Kruse)

Prohibits public schools from beginning student instructional days for the school year before the Tuesday after the first Monday in September (Labor Day), beginning with the 2019-2020 school year. Provides that a governing body may establish a beginning date before Labor Day for year-round schools, schools with balanced calendars, schools that coordinate calendars with a postsecondary educational institution, and schools that coordinate calendars with a large employer in the school corporation, following a public hearing and a majority vote of the governing body. Makes the change effective for collective bargaining agreements and contracts negotiated after June 30, 2019. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** See SB 88.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 116 OUT OF SCHOOL TIME PILOT PROGRAM AND FUND (Kruse)

Requires the Department of Education to establish a pilot program to provide grants for out of school time programs that serve students in grades 5 through 8. Establishes eligibility requirements. Establishes the out of school time program fund. Requires, before November 1 of each year, the department to submit a report regarding the pilot program to the Governor, budget committee, State Board of Education and Legislative Council. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports school corporations providing after care educational-based programming for students, as it provides quality care for children so their parents can work. We have no position on the funding mechanism regarding the grants.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 128 REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT (Messmer)

Authorizes a local port authority to apply for a "FASTLANE" grant from the Federal Highway Administration (or a grant from any other federal grant program) for highway funding. Authorizes a local port authority to construct and maintain a highway within the boundaries of the local port authority. Authorizes a county, city or town to establish a cumulative fund for the purpose of funding local port authority highway projects. Allows one or more counties to establish a regional supplemental highway funding authority. Provides that the primary purpose of an authority is to negotiate and enter into an agreement with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) or a local port authority to provide local matching funds to INDOT or the local port authority to be used to offset

the non-federal share of the costs of construction or reconstruction of a state highway, bypass or interstate highway that will increase an existing state highway's traffic capacity within the boundaries of the authority. ... **Position:**

**SUPPORT Reason:** See HB 1141.

**Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

#### SB 135 IMPROPER WORKER CLASSIFICATION (Mrvan)

Authorizes the Department of Revenue, the Department of Labor, the Worker's Compensation Board and the Department of Workforce Development to issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of records and to question witnesses under oath when conducting an investigation of any suspected improper worker classification by a construction contractor. Allows the Worker's Compensation Board to issue a stop work order as an additional remedy against an employer that does not have the required insurance and has not furnished satisfactory proof of self-insurance. Provides that service of a stop work order on a worksite is effective as to the employer's operations on that worksite, and that service of a stop work order on an employer is effective as to all of the employer's worksites where the employer has not complied with the insurance or self-insurance requirements. Provides a civil penalty of \$1,000 for each day an employer violates a stop work order. **Position: OPPOSE**

**Reason:** While we understand the attempt in addressing the issue of misclassification of workers, particularly independent contractors, we do not believe this is the right approach.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### SB 141 TAX CREDIT FOR HIRING CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS (Randolph)

Provides a non-refundable tax credit to a small business for employing an individual who is receiving unemployment benefits or returning from military service (qualified new employee). Provides that the small business must employ a greater number of full-time employees in Indiana in the taxable year than the small business employed in Indiana, on average, in the small business's base employment period (normally January 1, 2016, through June 30, 2016). Provides that the employee must be hired full time. Provides that the credit applies only to taxable years beginning in 2017 through 2019. Provides that the credit is \$3,000 per qualified new employee, not to exceed \$100,000 per small business. Provides that the small business may carry any excess credit over to not more than three subsequent taxable years. ...

**Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** We are very supportive of tax credits to employers that hire veterans as they are highly skilled and diligent employees. However, it is necessary to have an overall cap on the tax credits for employers in order to create a fiscally viable and sustainable program.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 147 HEALTH FACILITY EMPLOYEE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK (Randolph)

Requires a health facility to obtain a national criminal history background check or an expanded criminal history check for the health facility's employees. Provides immunity to persons for (1)

denying or terminating an individual's employment because of the individual's criminal history; or (2) reporting to or participating in the proceedings of the Department of Health or the registry of nurse aides. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** Each health facility should determine whether this is an appropriate policy.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### SB 150 BAN ON SALE OR USE OF COAL TAR PAVEMENT PRODUCTS (Niezgodski)

This bill prohibits the: (1) sale or offer for sale; and (2) application to pavement; of a coal tar pavement product except as required for purposes of research on the effects of the coal tar pavement product on the environment. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber supports the use of coal tar as a resource for use as a pavement product.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### SB 159 STATE EXAMINER FINDINGS (Niemeyer)

Specifies requirements for corrective action when audited entities fail to comply with certain guidelines or laws.

Requires an audited entity to file a corrective action plan following findings of non-compliance in two consecutive examination reports. Specifies actions that the audit committee may take if an audited entity fails to comply with a corrective action plan. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** See HB 1031.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### SB 164 ELIMINATION OF TRENDING TO ASSESSED VALUES (Niemeyer)

Eliminates the annual adjustments (or "trending") to assessed values of real property for assessment dates beginning after December 31, 2017. Retains the provisions in current law that require four-year cyclical reassessments. Makes conforming changes. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This bill would represent a major step backwards in the ongoing effort to improve our system of property taxation. Annual adjustments to reflect value increases ("trending") promotes uniformity and equity in the system. Prior to the implementation of such annual adjustments, those whose property was increasing in value were undervalued for years until the full reassessment of all properties was conducted. At that point, they would experience a significant spike in their assessment. Without trending the system effectively, it unfairly shifts the property tax burden from those whose property value is increasing to all other property taxpayers.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### SB 172 SALES TAX ON RECREATIONAL VEHICLES (Doriot)

Provides that the purchase of a recreational vehicle or cargo trailer that is transported out of Indiana for registration and use in another state or country is exempt from the state gross retail tax regardless of whether the destination state or country provides a similar exemption for Indiana residents. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** See HB 1045.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### SB 179 SELECTION OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (Buck)

Provides for the state superintendent of public instruction to be appointed by the Governor after January 12, 2025. Provides that, after January 12, 2025, the Governor appoints the members of the charter school review panel. Provides that, after January 12, 2025, the Governor appoints the director of special education. Provides that a statute relating to the residency of candidates for superintendent expires January 1, 2021. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber has long supported the Governor appointing the superintendent of public instruction. The public holds our Governor most accountable for our state's educational system. Accordingly, an appointed superintendent would empower the Governor to create and pursue a more coordinated education policy for the citizens of the state. We believe this should occur in 2021.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 182 SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACTS (Houchin)

Provides that a contract entered into or renewed after June 30, 2017, between a governing body and its superintendent is subject to the following conditions: (1) the contract must, with an exception for an extension, be for a term of at least 12 months and not more than 36 months; and (2) if the contract contains a provision that establishes an amount the governing body must pay to the superintendent to buy out the contract, the amount may not be more than an amount equal to the superintendent's salary for any one year under the contract. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** We feel that it is appropriate to put limits on payouts for superintendent contracts, as taxpayers should not be on the hook for such lengthy payouts. That being said, we believe that local school districts should have the ability to set the terms of contract dates for superintendents for as long as they wish. Should a school district want to lock in an excellent superintendent for more than three years (especially to give a longer contract for less money), it should have the opportunity to do so.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 224 PRE-KINDERGARTEN STATUS REPORT (Leising)

Requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Family and Social Services Administration, to conduct a survey to determine the number of children who are four years of age and were enrolled in a pre-kindergarten program during the 2015-2016 school year. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART/OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** While we support longitudinal data being provided regarding prekindergarten programs in Indiana, the information requested in such a report can already be found in the most recent Early Learning Advisory Committee Report. Therefore, this bill is unnecessary.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 236 ASBESTOS LITIGATION (Glick)

Requires certain disclosures regarding asbestos bankruptcy trust claims in civil asbestos actions. Provides medical criteria to set aside and preserve the claims of asbestos and silica

claimants without physical impairment, and gives priority to asbestos and silica claimants with malignant conditions and impairing nonmalignant conditions. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill allows for transparency in asbestos trust claims. Makes double-dipping between a claim against a trust and potential lawsuit less likely.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### SB 240 INDIANA SCHOOL COUNSELING PILOT PROGRAM (Head)

Establishes the Indiana school counseling pilot program, which authorizes the state superintendent of public instruction to select school corporations and charter schools from urban, suburban, and rural areas to apply for and receive grants from the Department of Education to develop and implement school counseling programs. Establishes a fund, administered by the department, to provide grants to participating schools and to carry out or contract for research concerning school counseling programs. Makes an appropriation. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber has long supported programs to strengthen and assist school counselors, as we feel they play a vital role in a student's progress and success. We support this legislation but will work to ensure that college and career readiness metrics are utilized as a part of the grant awarding system.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 244 FISCAL IMPACT STUDY OF DRUGS AND DRUG ADDICTION (Merritt)

The bill requires the Office of Management and Budget to conduct a study to evaluate the economic impact of drug addiction and drug use in Indiana. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This study should show how much drug addiction costs Indiana businesses and highlight the need to address the problem.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### SB 248 CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS (Raatz)

Provides that the governing body of two or more school corporations situated in the same county may consolidate administrative functions while continuing the historical legacy of their respective school corporations. Provides that each school corporation is considered a subunit of the consolidated school corporation. Provides that school corporations in a particular county may consolidate: (1) if the governing bodies meet and adopt a joint resolution declaring their intention to consolidate school corporations; or (2) whenever 20% of the legal voters residing in the district of any school corporation, jointly with 20% of the legal voters in each other school corporation situated in a particular county, prepare a resolution and petition the governing body of their respective school corporations to consolidate the school corporations. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** See HB 1015.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 251 PREVAILING WAGE (Tallian)

Requires that whenever the actual costs for the construction of a public improvement are at least \$150,000, a contractor or subcontractor shall pay the workers employed in the

performance of work for the construction of the public improvement a rate of wages that is not less than the prevailing wage determined by the commissioner of the Department of Labor. Requires that employer contributions for fringe benefits paid under a bona fide collective bargaining agreement be included in the prevailing wage determination unless a contractor or subcontractor is required by federal, state or local law to provide the fringe benefit. Provides that a prevailing wage determination is conclusive for one year from the date of the determination unless the determination is superseded by a later determination. Requires that all prevailing wage determinations be publicly available. ... **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** Undoes legislation that was passed in 2015 regarding common construction wage.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### SB 252 MINIMUM WAGE (Tallian)



Increases the state minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$10.62 an hour. Eliminates the tip credit in determining the minimum wage paid to a tipped employee. Makes a technical correction. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** At first glance, increasing the minimum wage appears to be a simple way to fight poverty. However, research shows that increasing the minimum wage puts pressure on employers and results in a net increase in the proportion of families who are poor or near poverty.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### SB 260 TAX RATES (Tallian)



Eliminates the following: (1) the decreases in the corporate adjusted gross income tax rate that are scheduled under current law to become effective for taxable years beginning after June 30, 2017; and (2) the decreases in the financial institutions tax rate that are scheduled under current law to become effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2018. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The gradual reduction of the corporate income tax rates from one of the highest in the country, to what will ultimately be one of the lowest, has contributed significantly to the state's favorable rankings in multiple business climate ratings and consequently promoted our economic development.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### SB 266 SPECIAL FUEL TAXATION (Walker)

Eliminates the sales and use tax on special fuel. Repeals the law concerning pre-collection of sales tax on special fuel. Increases the gallonage tax from \$0.16 to \$0.19 per gallon on special fuel sold or used in producing or generating power for propelling motor vehicles. Changes from 55% to 65% the amount the state highway fund receives from the highway, road and street fund and changes from 45% to 35% the amount the local road and street account receives from the highway, road and street fund. Provides that biodiesel fuel that is manufactured in Indiana and shipped out of state is exempt from the special fuel tax and motor carrier fuel tax. (Under current law, a refund must be claimed.) **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** This bill simplifies the procedures for collecting the special fuels taxes. The changes would ease the administrative burdens of both the taxpayers and the department of revenue. The specific amount of the special fuel

tax should be part of the overall road funding bill HB 1002.  
**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

**SB 267 INVESTMENT OF PUBLIC MONEY**  
(Crider)

Provides that investment officers of the state and local governments may invest the funds of the state or local government in brokered certificates of deposit. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This bill would potentially allow local and state entities to put their investments (“public deposits”) in non-approved institutions outside of Indiana, which is contrary to current statutory restrictions on such investments.  
**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

**SB 269 PROTECTIVE ORDERS AND EMPLOYMENT**  
(Randolph)

Provides that an employer may not discriminate against an employee with respect to compensation and benefits from the employer or terms and conditions of employment based on (1) the employee’s filing a petition for a protective order, whether or not the protective order has been issued; or (2) the actions of an individual against whom the employee has filed a protective order. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** Does not take into account the responsibility that an employer has for the safety of all other employees in the workplace.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**SB 276 EARLY EDUCATION GRANT PILOT PROGRAM**  
(Holdman)

Expands the pre-K pilot program to include five additional counties. Expands the requirement that the office of the secretary of family and social services carry out a longitudinal study of students who participate in the pilot program to include the students in the five additional counties. Establishes the prekindergarten pilot program fund. Makes an appropriation to the pre-K pilot program fund in an amount of \$20,000,000 from the state general fund for the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017, and for the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018.  
**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** See HB 1004.  
**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

**SB 277 HEALTHY FOOD INITIATIVE PILOT PROGRAM**  
(Head)

Establishes the healthy food initiative pilot program to be administered by the state Department of Health’s Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity to assist new businesses, existing businesses and other legal entities to offer fresh or unprocessed foods within an underserved geographic area. Defines “underserved geographic area”. Requires the division to establish (1) criteria for awarding grants and making loans under the program; and (2) terms and conditions for recipients of the grants and loans. Provides that the recipient of a grant or loan (1) may use the proceeds only to acquire, repair or renovate property or equipment to be used in offering fresh or unprocessed foods within an underserved geographic area; and (2) may not use the proceeds to acquire food to be sold. ...

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** See HB 1060.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**SB 281 BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT**  
(Messmer)

Provides that a local governmental unit that wishes to be certified as a broadband ready community must establish a procedure under which the unit promotes increasing the number of subscribers to broadband services in the unit after the unit is certified as a broadband ready community.  
**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** See HB 1192  
**Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

**SB 284 EDUCATOR EXPENSE TAX CREDIT**  
(Tomes)

Provides that a teacher employed by a private school is entitled to claim a state income tax credit for teacher classroom supplies. (Currently, only public school teachers are entitled to claim the tax credit.) Specifies that a “teacher” for purposes of the tax credit is a kindergarten through grade 12 teacher. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill would allow private school teachers, who often dip into their own pockets to provide classroom supplies for their students, to receive a tax credit of up to \$200 per year; this was passed two years ago for traditional public school teachers. This is especially helpful for new, young educators just starting their careers and will assist all educators as they support Indiana students.  
**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

**SB 286 SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS AND EVALUATIONS**  
(Ford)

Provides that a school’s or school corporation’s category or designation of performance for the 2015-2016 school year, 2016-2017 school year, 2017-2018 school year, and 2018-2019 school year may not be lower than the grade assigned to the school or school corporation by the State Board of Education for the 2013-2014 school year. Provides that, for state fiscal years beginning after June 30, 2016, and ending before July 1, 2020, the amount that a school corporation may receive as part of a performance grant relating to test results shall be calculated using the percentage of passing scores on ISTEP program tests for the school for the 2013-2014 school year or the school year immediately preceding the applicable state fiscal year, whichever percentage of passing scores is greater. ... **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** We do not feel that there were significant issues during this testing year to warrant this decoupling step. In addition, we have a longstanding policy that teacher evaluations are extremely important and student objective measures should be included in that evaluation process as teachers should be held accountable for their students’ mastery, improvement and growth. Especially, as 98% of teachers evaluated on student assessments received a highly effective or effective rating this past year.  
**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

## SB 290 STUDENT LOAN ASSISTANCE

(Niezgodski)

Provides an annual grant award of \$2,500 to assist an individual with student loan debt for each consecutive year the individual is employed full time in social work, nursing, or teaching in Indiana, not to exceed five years. Specifies that eligibility for a grant award begins on the first month of the first year that an individual is required to start repayment of a student loan, the proceeds of which were used to fund the individual's education. Makes an annual appropriation.

**Position: SUPPORT IN PART/OPPOSE IN PART**

**Reason:** While we support providing debt assistance to students in high need fields, we feel that there are other ways to provide incentives to go into these fields such as differentiated pay. This also has a high-fiscal price tag and other policies may take priority over this.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

## SB 291 RIGHT TO WORK OUT (Niezgodski)

Provides that after June 30, 2017, a health spa may not require an individual to (1) become or remain a member of a health spa; (2) enter into a contract with the health spa; or (3) pay dues, fees, assessments, or other charges of any kind or amount to the health spa; as a condition to use the health spa's health spa services. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This would put all health spas out of business.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

## SB 303 DIRECT PRIMARY CARE

AGREEMENTS (Koch)

Specifies that a direct primary care agreement is not insurance and a primary care provider that enters into a direct primary care agreement is not required to obtain an insurance certificate of authority. Sets forth requirements of a direct primary care agreement. Specifies justifiable reasons for a primary care provider to discontinue a direct primary care agreement and specifies conditions to be met in order to do so.

**Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The potential for access to affordable care might be possible with this legislation. The Chamber would want to ascertain more information about the dynamics before fully supporting.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

## SB 304 INDIVIDUAL OUT-OF-STATE HEALTH INSURANCE (Koch)

Allows an accident and sickness insurer that is licensed in certain other states, but is not licensed in Indiana, and complies with the state examination and premium tax requirements, to issue or deliver an individual policy of accident and sickness insurance to an individual resident of Indiana without complying with other Indiana insurance law.

**Position: OPPOSE Reason:** See HB 1139.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

## SB 305 GROUP HEALTH COVERAGE FOR FARMERS (Koch)

Allows farmers to unite to purchase a policy of accident and sickness insurance to cover the farmers and their employees.

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This arrangement would be similar to plans created by associations.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

## SB 308 ASSESSMENT OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR RENT (Hershman)

Provides that motorized heavy equipment vehicles that are leased, or held for lease, by the owner and are otherwise subject to the personal property tax shall be assessed for property tax purposes at the place of the owner's business location at which the motorized heavy equipment vehicle was leased, or is held for lease, as recorded on the owner's books and records on the assessment date. Provides that the owner is not required to file a personal property tax return for a motorized heavy equipment vehicle in a township or county other than the township or county of the owner's business location in which the motorized heavy equipment vehicle is assessed and subject to taxation under the amended law, regardless of the place where the motorized heavy equipment vehicle may be situated as of the assessment date.

(Under current law, an owner must file a personal property tax return in the township or county in which the motorized heavy equipment vehicle is situated for regular use on the assessment date.) **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Reporting this property for taxation where the business that owns it is located is more practical and logical than requiring it to be reported at the location where it may be temporarily be located, given the nature of the rental transaction and the mobility of such equipment.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

## SB 309 DISTRIBUTED GENERATION

(Hershman)

Requires: (1) the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) to post a summary of the results of the IURC's most recent periodic review of the basic rates and charges of an electricity supplier on its website and the electricity supplier subject to the review to provide a link on its web site to the IURC's summary. It also amends the definition of a "private generation project" to include facilities that are located on the same site or are contiguous to the host operation and are integrated with the host operation. It specifies that an electric utility or a steam utility is not required to distribute, transmit, deliver or wheel electricity from a private generation project. It requires the IURC to: (1) review the rates charged by electric utilities for backup power to eligible facilities and for purchases of power from eligible facilities; (2) identify the extent to which the rates meet specified criteria; and (3) report the IURC's findings to the interim study committee on energy, utilities and telecommunications; not later than November 1, 2018. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill is truly a compromise of longstanding issues that industrial users have had with Indiana's investor-owned utilities. It will not fix all of the concerns that the industrial users have expressed, but is a good first step in helping industrial users of energy to control costs. It has elements of competitive procurement, net metering, distributive generation and transparency of rates. It will serve as a building block of the Chamber's efforts to

maintain Indiana's competitive edge when looking at energy costs that have risen over the past decade. See also HB 1188.  
**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### SB 311 SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATIONS (Boots)

Provides that a school's or school corporation's category or designation of performance for the 2015-2016 school year, 2016-2017 school year, and 2017-2018 school year may not be lower than the grade assigned to the school or school corporation by the state board of education for the 2013-2014 school year. Provides that, for state fiscal years beginning after June 30, 2016, and ending before July 1, 2019, the amount that a school corporation may receive as part of a performance grant relating to test results shall be calculated using the percentage of passing scores on ISTEP program tests for the school for the 2013-2014 school year or the school year immediately preceding the applicable state fiscal year, whichever percentage of passing scores is greater. ...

**Position: OPPOSE Reason:** See SB 286.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 312 USE OF CRIMINAL HISTORY INFORMATION IN HIRING (Boots)

Provides that a political subdivision may not prohibit an employer from obtaining or using criminal history information during the hiring process to the extent allowed by federal or state law, rules or regulations. Provides that a political subdivision may not prohibit an employer, at the time an individual makes an initial application for employment, from making an inquiry regarding the individual's criminal history information or requiring the individual to disclose criminal history information. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The term that prohibits employers from securing criminal background information is commonly referred to as "Ban the Box". The ability for employers to obtain criminal background information should be done on a case-by-case basis. No state or local unit of government should restrict the discovery of such information greater than what is allowed under federal law and interpreted by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### SB 318 MINIMUM WAGE (Mrvan)

Increases, after June 30, 2018, the minimum wage paid to certain employees in Indiana from \$7.25 an hour to \$15 an hour. Provides that after June 30, 2019, and each subsequent June 30, the hourly minimum wage increases at the same percentage as any increase in the Consumer Price Index for the preceding calendar year. Makes technical corrections and corresponding changes. Removes outdated language.

**Position: OPPOSE Reason:** See SB 252.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### SB 325 VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM (Stoops)

Establishes the voluntary pre-K program. Establishes the voluntary pre-K program fund. Makes an appropriation from the state

general fund to fund the voluntary prekindergarten program in an amount not to exceed: (1) \$2.5 million for the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017; (2) \$148 million for the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018; and (3) \$176 million for the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019. Repeals provisions concerning the following: (1) the early education matching grant program; and (2) the early education grant pilot program. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART/OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** While the Chamber supports expanding the state-funded pre-K pilot program, we feel it is important to only expand it to young children from low-income Hoosier families. We must also do so in a way that is fiscally prudent and does not put our state in fiscal crisis.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 326 PRODUCER RECYCLING OF WASTE PACKAGING AND PAPER (Stoops)

This bill requires every producer of a product or material that results in waste packaging or waste printed paper to register with the Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and to submit to IDEM for approval a producer recycling program plan under which the producer or group of producers will provide for or finance the recycling of packaging and printed paper. It provides that a proposed producer recycling program plan must include a description of the methods by which packaging and printed paper will be collected from households in a convenient manner in all parts of Indiana and recycled, an explanation of how the plan will be financed, and other contents. It requires a producer or group of producers to solicit comments and input from stakeholders on its proposed producer recycling program plan. ... **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** Although the Chamber supports recycling programs, this bill would impose burdensome planning and record-keeping requirements on business. What's more, it would increase business costs and likely make it a felony for a person to not comply.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### SB 330 CAREER READINESS IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (Ruckleshaus)

Establishes a career readiness improvement committee to study the state's public higher education system and the feasibility of adding a fifth year of high school for the attainment of vocational and other certificates of training for entry into the workforce.

**Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** We are supportive of the establishment of a committee but have some concerns regarding a fifth year of high school for vocational studies. High school may not be the place for such studies statewide, and many existing school corporations are able to graduate students with a high school degree and a nationally-recognized certificate within four years.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 349 EXPEDITED TEACHER LICENSING FOR MILITARY SPOUSES (Glick)

Requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules, including emergency rules that establish procedures to expedite the issuance, renewal, or reinstatement of a teacher license to a military spouse whose husband or wife is assigned to a duty station in Indiana. (Current law allows, but does not require, the



state board to adopt such rules.) Requires the State Board of Education to promote and encourage military spouses to participate in the federal Troops to Teachers program, or a similar program approved by the department of education.

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** See HB 1396.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 357 TAX CREDIT FOR TOLL ROAD CHARGES (Zakas)

Provides an income tax credit to individuals who pay tolls to drive on the Indiana toll road for a nonbusiness purpose.

Provides that the amount of the tax credit may not exceed the lesser of \$300 or the amount of tolls paid by an individual during the taxable year. Provides that the tax credit may not exceed an individual's adjusted gross income tax liability.

**Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This bill, while well intentioned, reduces the amount of money available for road funding.

Having a tax deduction allows the toll road vendor to get credit for revenue, but the state would have less revenue because of the deduction. The Chamber believes in the user fee approach for road funding.

**Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

#### SB 369 ELIGIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE VOUCHER (Stoops)

Provides that beginning October 1, 2017, a child who is otherwise eligible for participation in the federal Child Care and Development Fund voucher program may continue to participate unless the child's family income exceeds the greater of 250% of the federal income poverty level or 85% of the state median income for the same size family. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART/OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** While we support raising the income threshold for those receiving child care development fund grants, it should not be increased without stipulating that those scholarship grants go towards high-quality providers. To do so would require a phase-in in order not to upset the marketplace.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 373 HOMELAND SECURITY MATTERS (Delph)

The bill establishes the Indiana Advisory Security Council to advise the Governor concerning Indiana's homeland security policy and preparedness and to coordinate homeland security efforts among state agencies. The bill requires the executive director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to prepare emergency response plans to address the following: (1) A failure of Indiana's electrical grid and related systems. (2) An earthquake in the New Madrid seismic zone or Wabash Valley seismic zone. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill is designed to protect electrical power generating facilities, substations, switching stations and electrical control centers – aka the grid. Increased security of the electrical grid will ensure reliable energy service which can reduce costly shutdowns for all.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### SB 376 RURAL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION GOVERNANCE (Houchin)

This bill amends the statute governing rural electric membership corporations (REMC) to allow a REMC to file a petition with the IURC for authority to begin water or wastewater service. (Current law does not specify that a corporation may seek to provide wastewater service.) It also makes technical changes. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill would allow REMCs to provide wastewater service to previously unserved or underserved areas of the state. It is consistent with the Chamber's *Indiana Vision 2025* by supporting the sustainability of water resources.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### SB 378 TAX CREDIT FOR BRIDGE TOLL EXPENSES (Grooms)

Provides an income tax credit to qualified businesses that pay tolls to cross certain Ohio River bridges near Clark or Floyd counties. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** See SB 357.

**Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

#### SB 379 TAX DEDUCTION FOR OHIO RIVER BRIDGE TOLLS (Grooms)

Provides an income tax deduction to residents in Clark or Floyd counties who pay tolls to cross certain Ohio River bridges. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** See SB 357.

**Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

#### SB 416 INFRASTRUCTURE ASSISTANCE FUND (Charbonneau)

This bill establishes the infrastructure assistance fund to provide grants, loans, and other financial assistance for the planning, designing, acquisition, construction, renovation, improvement and expansion of public water systems. It will require the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) to administer the fund and to establish criteria for the making of grants, loans and other financial assistance from the fund. The fund promoted the provision of safe and adequate drinking water, helping to upgrade deteriorating infrastructure, and promoting wastewater and storm water management to positively affect the public health and well-being. It states that it is needed to promote employment and economic security. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This is consistent with one of the drivers of the Chamber's *Vision 2025* plan. An integral part of a water resources plan is the ability of the state's water utilities to create and execute long-range plans. It builds on Senate Bill 474 from 2015 and is based on the study that was a result of that bill. It promotes sustainability of water resources and attempts to keep costs as low as possible.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### SB 421 ABOVE-GROUND STORAGE TANKS (Bassler)

This bill repeals the provision of SEA 312 to require above-ground storage tanks within certain distance upstream of a drinking water surface water treatment plant from registering with

the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. It requires study to determine how water utilities could be assisted to prepare for unexpected spills of hazardous materials to their intakes. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Although the Chamber supports efforts to minimize threats to our surface water resources, above-ground storage tanks have many current reporting and control requirements. As written, SEA 312 cast a broad net with many unintended consequences. The identification of above-ground storage tanks should be done in a way to identify the high-risk tanks and other efforts to minimize the risk. Although this bill removes the burdensome record-keeping requirements imposed on all tanks, further study is warranted. **Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

**SB 422 APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (Bassler)**  
Provides that, after January 10, 2021, the state superintendent of public instruction is to be appointed by the Governor. Repeals a provision that a candidate for the office of state superintendent of public instruction must have resided in Indiana for at least two years. Makes conforming and technical amendments. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** We have long supported a gubernatorial appointment of the superintendent of public instruction. We feel that having a coordinated line of power when it comes to education policy would be best for the state. **Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

**SB 428 AGE FOR COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE (Taylor)**  
Provides that a student shall enroll in a kindergarten program not later than the fall term of the school year if the student is five years of age on August 1 of that school year. (Current law requires that a student enroll in a kindergarten class not later than the fall term of the school year in which the student becomes seven years of age.) Makes conforming amendments. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports lowering the compulsory attendance age of Indiana children to age 5. Children that start a school program earlier are more prepared. **Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

**SB 431 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY (Mrvan)**  
Adds various job and employee definitions to the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) laws. Requires that all records related to taxpayer funded economic development incentives must be disclosed under the open records law. Requires that the IEDC's annual job creation incentives and compliance report must be published on the Indiana transparency portal web site. Requires the IEDC to recapture job creation incentives from a recipient that: (1) fails to make the level of capital investment; (2) fails to create or retain the promised number of jobs; or (3) pays less in wages; than specified in an incentive agreement. Requires incentive recipients to prepare an annual compliance report on the number of jobs created or retained, employee pay and various other information concerning the use of the incentives, and requires the IEDC to

compile this information and include it in the IEDC's annual job creation incentives and compliance report. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** Current economic development accountability and provisions related to clawbacks are sufficient. **Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

**SB 440 VARIOUS TAX MATTERS (Holdman)**  
Provides that the attorney general owes the same obligations to the state or any other party the attorney general represents in a judicial or administrative proceeding that any other attorney owes to a client under rules prescribed by the Supreme Court. Requires the party that petitions for equitable allocation and apportionment of state income tax to bear the burden of proof that the standard allocation and apportionment provisions do not fairly represent the taxpayer's activity in Indiana and that the proposed alternative to the standard allocation and apportionment provisions is reasonable. Specifies certain documents and records that the state Department of Revenue must maintain for at least three years. Provides that, if a taxpayer has filed a protest of a tax assessment or a refund claim, the department shall maintain all documents and records relevant to a determination of the taxpayer's protest for a period ending not less than the last day to file an appeal. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The provisions of this bill have been identified as needed improvements to various components of the procedures that govern the processes followed when a taxpayer contests a tax assessment. **Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

**SB 444 TELEMEDICINE (Merritt)**  
Requires the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning to reimburse any Medicaid provider (not just specified providers) for Medicaid covered services provided through the use of telemedicine services if certain requirements are met. Prohibits the office from setting any distance restrictions under Medicaid on telehealth services and telemedicine services. Requires reimbursement for telemedicine services under the Healthy Indiana Plan. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber has a standing policy that supports the expansion of telemedicine. **Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**SB 449 PROPERTY TAX AUDIT CONTRACTOR COMPENSATION (Niemeyer)**  
Extends the prohibition under current law against contracting for property tax audit services on a percentage basis to include any method that bases payments under the contract on increases of assessed value or property tax revenue that are attributable to the discovery of property that has been undervalued or omitted from assessment. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** No one auditing a tax assessment should be motivated by the structure of their compensation to more often reach conclusions that generate more tax revenue. **Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

**SB 451 INDIANA WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT (Delph)**  
Provides that a taxpayer is entitled to the Indiana work opportunity tax credit against state tax liability for wages paid

by the taxpayer during a taxable year beginning after December 31, 2017, and before January 1, 2023, to an individual who: (1) is a member of the Indiana National Guard or a reserve component of the armed forces; (2) is hired by the taxpayer after June 30, 2017; and (3) is employed by the taxpayer during the taxable year. Specifies that for each individual for whom the taxpayer may claim a credit, the amount of the credit is: (1) \$2,000 if the taxpayer is a for-profit entity; or (2) \$1,500 if the taxpayer is a nonprofit entity. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** See HB 1397. **Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 453 INDIANA COMMERCE CONNECTOR (Delph)

Allows the designation of the Indiana Commerce Connector as a tollway. Requires the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), whenever they wish to acquire real property, to make every reasonable effort to negotiate a willing purchase with the owners of real property before commencing condemnation proceedings. Requires INDOT: (1) to study whether the use of high occupancy lanes on Interstate Highway 465 is feasible and advisable; (2) to study whether implementing the Indiana Commerce Connector as a toll road restricted to commercial traffic is feasible and advisable; and (3) to report the department's findings of the studies to the general assembly. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Designating the "Commerce Connector", a Tier 1 project that connects multiple counties in Central Indiana as a toll road, allows it to potentially be built sooner as a suitable alternative to the crowded I-465. **Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

#### SB 463 WORKER MISCLASSIFICATION ISSUES (Tallian)

Requires the Department of Labor (DOL), the Department of Workforce Development (DWD), the Department of Revenue (DOR) and the Worker's Compensation Board (WCB) to share information concerning instances in which a construction contractor paid a worker in cash. Establishes the payroll fraud task force (task force), consisting of the commissioners of the DOL, DWD and DOR and the chair of the WCB, or their designees, to investigate suspected instances of payroll fraud, employee misclassification and violations of other state labor and employment statutes occurring on commercial and industrial construction projects. ... **Position: SUPPORT IN PART/OPPOSE IN PART:** Information sharing is currently conducted between these agencies concerning any suspected improper classification by a contractor. Sharing information between these agencies concerning instances in which a construction contractor paid a worker in cash could be added to their responsibilities under IC 6-8.1-3-21.2. This could be done with little administrative burden. It is uncertain that the other provisions of the bill will achieve the intended goals. **Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

SB 464 TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES (Tallian)  
Requires that the primary motor vehicle liability insurance

coverage for a transportation network company (TNC) driver who is logged on to the TNC's digital network, but is not engaged in a prearranged ride, includes at least \$50,000 per incident medical payments. Describes the relationship between a TNC and a TNC driver for minimum wage and overtime, worker's compensation and occupational diseases compensation, unemployment compensation and other benefits to an individual based on an employer-employee relationship. Requires a TNC to: (1) maintain records of all amounts paid to its TNC drivers; (2) withhold from amounts paid to a TNC driver all federal and state income taxes due as if the TNC driver were an employee of the TNC; and (3) comply with the federal and state income tax laws that apply to the employment relationship as if the TNC were the employer of a TNC driver. ... **Position: OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** This legislation would significantly change the business model of those companies (transportation network companies TNC) using drivers as independent contractors. The interim study committee on labor and employment this past summer did not discuss whether the drivers for TNCs met the 20 criterion to be considered independent contractors as was expected. The question is does the state want this type of business model to exist in its current form or not. **Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

SB 465 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TAXING POWER (Brown L)  
Eliminates the ability of a Solid Waste Management District (SWMD) to use property taxes as a funding source. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The SWMDs were created over 25 years ago based on erroneous rationale. The Indiana Chamber supports the elimination of property taxes as a funding source for the SWMDs. Statewide, the 72 SWMDs realize over \$50 million from various funding sources. Over half of that comes from property taxes. **Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

SB 472 REQUESTS TO LOCATE UNDERGROUND UTILITY FACILITIES (Crider)  
This bill amends the statute concerning the locating and marking of underground utility facilities (Indiana's 811 law) to allow a person responsible for a construction project or operation that will involve an excavation or demolition operation to provide voluntary notice to the Indiana Underground Plant Protection Service (IUPPS) before commencing preliminary engineering studies or construction planning activities in the project area that will be affected by the excavation or demolition. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill fixes some longstanding issues with the 811 law and should aid in the speed of some construction projects. **Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

SB 484 REGIONAL TRAINING FACILITY FUNDING (Melton)  
Requires the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority to conduct a study of the feasibility of constructing or renovating a regional training facility to be located in the city of

Gary that would provide training for displaced workers and long term unemployed individuals. Requires the authority to coordinate with other regional entities in conducting the study. Provides that the study: (1) must address the feasibility of constructing or renovating a facility in the city of Gary; (2) may address an appropriate site for a facility; and (3) may address the fiscal impact of a facility. Requires the authority to submit a copy of the results of the study to the Legislative Council not later than June 30, 2018. Appropriates \$200,000 from the state general fund to provide funding for the study. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** We support a study to find the feasibility of a regional training facility in Gary, utilizing existing resources if possible.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 487 PROHIBITED DISCRIMINATION IN CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES (Lanane)

Amends civil rights enforcement statutes to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, veteran status and ancestry. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Indiana Chamber supports adding sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as veteran status, to the state's civil rights statutes while preserving longstanding religious freedoms. This bill will help restore the state's reputation as a welcoming place for all to live, work, worship, attend school, start a business and raise a family. The exemptions and protections in this bill are sufficient.

**Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

#### SB 502 STORM WATER FEE EXEMPTIONS (Freeman)

Provides that a municipality or county may not assess storm water fees with respect to: (1) property where religious services are held regularly; (2) property that belongs to a school corporation and is used for educational purposes; or (3) property that is assessed as agricultural land for property tax purposes. **Position: OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** The Chamber is supportive of reasonable user fees. Storm water fees are typically quite modest and are essentially assessed to the properties that directly benefit. By exempting property assessed as agricultural land, the bill exempts an entire classification of privately owned property that does not qualify for any other type exemption.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### SB 503 TEACHER EVALUATIONS AND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE (Leising)

Provides that, for a state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, and ending June 30, 2017, the amount that a school corporation may receive as part of a performance grant relating to test results shall be calculated using the higher of: (1) the percentage of passing scores on ISTEP program tests for the school for the 2013-2014 school year; or (2) the percentage of passing scores on ISTEP program tests for the school for the 2015-2016 school year. ... **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** See SB 35.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 504 PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS (Leising)

Requires that educational service centers provide services to a participating charter school upon the request of the charter school. (This is in addition to current law that requires educational service centers to provide services to a participating school corporation upon request of the school corporation.) Allows charter schools individually, in collaboration with other school corporations, charter schools, or both school corporations and charter schools, and through the educational services centers, to undertake action to reduce non-instructional expenditures and allocate the resulting savings to student instruction and learning. Makes conforming changes to include charter schools in the actions that may be undertaken. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Educational Service Centers are paid for with tax dollars to provide services to students in public schools in the community. Charter schools are public schools and should be able to utilize the resources available at those centers.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 507 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Head)

Changes the name of the Indiana twenty-first century research and technology fund to the Indiana innovation and entrepreneurship fund. Eliminates the strategic review committee under the regional cities program, and assigns its duties to the board of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC). Authorizes the Governor to appoint up to three additional members to the IEDC board. Establishes the regional development tax credit which provides a credit against state tax liability if: (1) the taxpayer makes a qualified investment for the redevelopment or rehabilitation of real property that is vacant or underused; and (2) the qualified investment is approved by the IEDC. Eliminates the enterprise zone loan interest, investment credit, industrial recovery tax credit and CRED tax credit. ... **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** This bill includes several items the Chamber supports. Adding three members to the IEDC board would help broaden the perspectives on the board. It eliminates several underutilized tax credits and replaces them with a regional development tax credit, which helps encourage regional economic development. It eliminates the expiration of the venture capital tax credit in 2021 and transfers the office of small business and entrepreneurship to the IEDC.

**Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547**

#### SB 511 WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITIES (Charbonneau)

This bill requires the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) to study the ability of utilities to provide clean and safe drinking water in Indiana for the foreseeable future. The bill requires the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), in its deliberations in a general rate case of a water or wastewater utility, to consider governmental requirements arising from environmental law and their effect upon the utility's operational expenses. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill is consistent with and partially a result of the Chamber's

Indiana Vision 2025 plan. The measure may assist in controlling future water costs.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### SB 515 TAX ADMINISTRATION (Hershman)

Provides a sales tax exemption for certain transactions involving agricultural or industrial processing machinery, tools and equipment. Provides a sales tax exemption for prosthetic devices, including artificial limbs, orthopedic devices, dental prosthetic devices, eyeglasses and contact lenses. Provides an income tax deduction for certain amounts a taxpayer included as an item of income in a prior tax year, paying tax on the amount, but later returned the item in a subsequent tax year because it was established that the taxpayer did not have an unrestricted right to the item of income. Specifies that the modifications that are required to be made in determining a taxpayer's Indiana adjusted gross income include those exemptions, deductions, and add backs that are provided for in other provisions of the Indiana Code. Specifies that, in determining an Indiana net operating loss deduction, certain modifications to adjusted gross income shall not be applied. ... **Position: SUPPORT IN**

**PART/OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** The Chamber generally supports the efforts of the Department of Revenue to identify statutory provisions that improve tax administration as embodied in this bill. However, the Chamber opposes the provision in this bill that amends the due date for a corporation to file their state return. Making the state return due on the same date the federal return puts an unnecessary burden on a company tax preparer (Under current law, the state return is not due until 30 days later.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### SB 525 CORPORATE INCOME TAX RATES (Stoops)



Provides that the income tax rate phase-down for corporations under current law shall not apply to a corporation that employs one or more employees during the taxable year at an hourly rate that is less than a living wage. Defines "living wage" as an hourly rate that if paid to a full-time employee would be sufficient to exceed the maximum income limits applicable to the employee for any of the following public assistance: (1) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF). (2) Medicaid assistance. (3) Food stamp assistance under federal law. (4) The federal Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** It would be counterproductive to take these steps; see SB 260.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### SB 530 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND DEFICIT FINANCING (Becker)

Provides that, for purposes of collective bargaining, a school employer is not considered to be in a position of deficit financing if the school employer's combined general fund cash balance and rainy day fund cash balance as listed on the school employer's Form 9 on June 30 of the current calendar year

exceeds 10% of the school employer's certified general fund budget for that year. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** School corporations should not have the ability to collectively bargain teacher salaries utilizing data that would allow for them to deficit spend. This would not allow for a sustainable funding stream for the school corporation or for teacher salaries.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 531 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FOR TEACHERS (Becker)

Amends, regarding collective bargaining for teachers, the: (1) timelines for an impasse to be declared and for certain mediation requirements; and (2) agreement deadline (at which time the parties will continue the terms of the current contract and the school employer may issue tentative individual contracts and prepare the school employer's budget).

**Position: OPPOSE Reason:** There is no evidence that the current timeline is not working.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 533 VETERANS (Boots)

Establishes the Office of Transition Recruiting under the Lt. Governor to recruit active military service personnel during the final six months of their military service to live and work in Indiana at the conclusion of their military service. Establishes the transition recruiting fund to provide grants to counties, cities, and towns that seek to welcome and support recently discharged military service personnel to their communities with various types of financial assistance. Provides for a tax credit against a qualified veteran's adjusted gross income tax liability each taxable year to a qualified veteran who rents a dwelling as a principal place of residence equal to 10% of the rent paid by the qualified veteran during the taxable year. Provides for a tax credit known as the Indiana work opportunity tax credit against an employer's state tax liability for the employment of certain veterans during a taxable year equal to 25% of the employer's federal work opportunity tax credit for the employment of those veterans during the taxable year. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** We are supportive of providing employers a tax credit for hiring qualified veterans. Veterans returning to the workforce provide an important role in filling skills gaps. We have no position on transition recruiting at this time.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 534 SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT PROGRAM (Raatz)

Establishes the Indiana special education scholarship account program and determines the requirements of the program. Requires the treasurer of state to administer the program. Provides that money transferred from a student's Indiana special education scholarship account to the student's college choice 529 education savings plan is not included as a contribution for purposes of a credit against a taxpayer's adjusted gross income tax. Requires the treasurer of state to: (1) annually request a parent of an eligible student or an emancipated eligible student who is participating in the program to complete a written survey; and (2) annually provide a summary of the survey to the

Governor and the Legislative Council. Continuously appropriates money from the fund and the accounts established within the fund for the purposes of the program. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports allowing education dollars to follow the child. This legislation would allow dollars appropriated for Hoosier children with special education needs to have the opportunity to use the dollars in whatever educational way that is deemed best.  
**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

**SB 536 STUDENT ASSESSMENTS (Delph)**  
Replaces the ISTEP test program with an assessment program using the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills or the Iowa Tests of Educational Development, as appropriate for the grade level being tested. Repeals a statute establishing the ISTEP Program Citizens' Review Committee. Repeals a provision defining the ISTEP program. Repeals an expiration provision. **Position: OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** We have not been opposed to changing the statewide assessment, despite the fact that we have long felt that the issue was more with the administration of ISTEP rather than the test itself. Whatever statewide assessment we move to next, we strongly feel that it must be aligned with our current college and career-ready standards. This assessment should also be approved by the federal regulations outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act.  
**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

**SB 537 ELECTRIC POWER GRID SECURITY (Delph)**  
The bill requires the Indiana Department of Homeland Security to develop an emergency response plan for an attack on or systematic failure of the electric power grid; and develop standards for increasing the physical security of the electric power grid. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** See SB 373.  
**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

**SB 541 EMPLOYER TRAINING EXPENSE TAX CREDIT (Raatz)**  
Establishes a tax credit against state tax liability for expenditures and donations made on behalf of an employee or student to meet the requirements for portable workforce credentials that are required or beneficial for targeted employment in manufacturing, health care, information technology, or logistics that is critical to or emerging as needed by employers to conduct business in Indiana. Limits the tax credit to \$40,000 per employer and \$5,000 per employee or student in each taxable year, and limits the aggregate total of all tax credits that may be claimed by all taxpayers for expenditures and donations made in each state fiscal year to \$10 million. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** We are supportive of an employer tax credit for worker training, as it would help move the needle on our goal of 60% of workers achieving post-secondary credentials. While we appreciate the language in the bill specifying the fields of manufacturing, health care, information technology or logistics, there are many fields of high-wage, high-demand

jobs that could be added to the bill.  
**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

**SB 542 TEACHER COMPENSATION (Becker)**  
Provides that a teacher who possesses a master's degree is eligible for supplemental pay and increases or increments in pay. Removes language that prohibits collectively bargaining for supplemental pay and increases or increments in pay. Requires the department of education to review compensation models. Makes a conforming amendment. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** Teachers should receive supplemental pay based on their performance, and the supplemental pay should be outside of the bargaining agreement to allow more flexibility to administrators.  
**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

**SB 543 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES (Delph)**  
The bill requires each executive branch agency to provide a list to the clerk of the Supreme Court of the administrative law judges employed or otherwise appointed by the agency to preside over administrative matters. It requires an agency in need of an administrative law judge for a matter to submit a written request to the clerk of the Supreme Court for assignment of an administrative law judge. It provides that the clerk of the Supreme Court shall randomly choose three names to provide to the parties. The bill provides that the parties may each strike the name of one judge from the list of nominees. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART/OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** The bill represents a significant change to how administrative issues with some state agencies are adjudicated. The Chamber suggests caution in making such substantial changes without a full vetting by all affected parties. There are indications that the changes in this bill could ultimately prove detrimental to the ability of businesses to gain a thorough and expedient review of their disputes with state agencies. The Chamber supports the objective of establishing a separate and independent review process, but opposes a structure that lends to delays or a dilution of the expertise currently applied by the administrative law judges under the present system. In addition, this would task the judiciary with providing administrative support to the executive branch. This has some of the issues that were raised in 2016 in SB 1.  
**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

**SB 545 SALES TAX COLLECTION BY REMOTE SELLERS (Kenley)**  
Provides that a retail merchant that does not have a physical presence in Indiana shall, as an agent for the state, collect sales tax on a retail transaction made in Indiana, remit the sales tax and comply with all applicable procedures and requirements of the sales tax laws as if the retail merchant has a physical presence in Indiana, if: (1) the retail merchant's gross revenue from sales into Indiana in a calendar year exceeds \$100,000; or (2) the retail merchant makes sales into Indiana in more than 200 separate transactions. Authorizes the Department of Revenue to bring a declaratory judgment action against such a remote seller to establish that the remote seller has an obligation to collect sales tax and that the remote seller's obligation to collect sales tax is valid under state and federal law. ...

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Indiana's brick and mortar retailers are facing increasing competition from those who sell like products over the internet. Indiana's brick and mortar retailers, those who pay property tax and employ Hoosiers, must serve as the state's collection agent while the internet sellers do not. This effectively gives the internet seller's a 7% price advantage. Additionally, the failure to require the collection of sales tax from those selling products to Indiana residents represents a substantial loss of tax revenue that has to be made up with other taxes.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### SB 546 TAX COURT REORGANIZATION

(Hershman)

Establishes the position of chief tax judge, who serves with two judges of the Indiana Court of Appeals as the Tax Panel of the Court of Appeals. Specifies that the tax panel has jurisdiction to hear appeals from the: (1) Indiana Board of Tax Review; and (2) tax court. Provides that the tax court consists of a pool of six circuit, superior or probate court judges assigned to the tax court by the Supreme Court and supervised by the chief tax judge.

Transfers jurisdiction to hear cases appealed from the Indiana board of tax review from the tax court to the tax panel. Specifies that the person serving as tax court judge on December 31, 2017, becomes the chief tax judge. **Position: OPPOSE**

**Reason:** This bill threatens to seriously undermine the status of Indiana's Tax Court as a court of unique expertise in a particularly complicated subject area and a structure that assures consistency in the application of the tax laws. The Tax Court was established as a separate, independent court to serve just these purposes and has functioned well for nearly 30 years. The form and structure of our Tax Court is viewed across the country as an example of how to adjudicate tax disputes in a fair and equitable manner. The proposed changes would only reinsert the lack of knowledge and expertise, and renew the opportunity for conflicting and inconsistent decisions that were the impetus to establish the Tax Court in the first place. Further, the proposed new structure adds new layers of judicial bureaucracy that serve no purpose but to needlessly draw out the litigation process.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### SB 553 REGULATION OF COAL COMBUSTION RESIDUALS (Bassler)

This bill authorizes the Indiana Environmental Rules Board to adopt rules consistent with the regulations of the United States Environmental Protection Agency concerning standards for the disposal of coal combustion residuals in landfills and surface impoundments. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** See HB 1230.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### SB 555 TEACHER PERFORMANCE GRANTS

(Stoops)

Provides that a school corporation's annual performance grant is equal to the sum of: (1) the number of teachers employed by the school corporation who were rated as highly effective in the teacher's annual performance evaluation conducted in the

preceding state fiscal year, multiplied by \$750; plus (2) the number of teachers employed by the school corporation who were rated as effective in the teacher's annual performance evaluation conducted in the preceding state fiscal year, multiplied by \$500. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** We do not want to dictate into statute the amount of performance pay funding. Instead, we want to make sure that the amount is sustainable and fiscally available before deciding on an actual amount.

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 560 WORK OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM (Eckerty)

Creates the work opportunity grant program to provide grants to employers that continue to employ certain eligible employees into a second year of employment. Provides that the Department of Workforce Development administers the program. Creates a purchasing preference for employers that are awarded a grant under the program. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** See HB 1397

**Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880**

# Legislative Agenda



## Quick Reference: Position by Bill Number and Title

*OIP=Oppose in Part • NIP=Neutral in Part • SIP=Support in Part*

### House

- HB 1001 BIENNIAL BUDGET – **SIP**
- HB 1002 TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING – **SUPPORT**
- HB 1003 STUDENT ASSESSMENTS – **SUPPORT**
- HB 1004 PREKINDERGARTEN EDUCATION – **SUPPORT**
- HB 1007 EDUCATION COURSE ACCESS PROGRAM – **SUPPORT**
- HB 1008 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT – **SUPPORT**
- HB 1009 SCHOOL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT – **SUPPORT**
- HB 1012 HIGHER EDUCATION EXPENSES – **SIP/NIP**
- HB 1015 SCHOOL EFFICIENCY GRANTS – **SUPPORT**
- HB 1028 DENTAL AND OPTOMETRY SERVICE COVERAGE – **OPPOSE**
- HB 1031 STATE EXAMINER FINDINGS – **SUPPORT**
- HB 1036 MARION COUNTY JUDICIAL SELECTION – **SUPPORT**
- HB 1045 SALES TAX ON RECREATIONAL VEHICLES – **SUPPORT**
- HB 1050 OUT-OF-STATE DRUG PRESCRIPTIONS – **OPPOSE**
- HB 1057 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES – **SUPPORT**
- HB 1059 COVERAGE OF IN VITRO FERTILIZATION – **OPPOSE**
- HB 1060 HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING PROGRAM – **SUPPORT**
- HB 1082 REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP – **SUPPORT**
- HB 1086 MEDICAL PAYMENT COVERAGE – **OIP/NIP**
- HB 1087 FUEL TAXES AND VEHICLE FEES – **SIP**
- HB 1099 INDUSTRIAL RECOVERY TAX CREDIT – **SUPPORT**
- HB 1121 PROTECTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY – **OPPOSE**
- HB 1127 NULLIFICATION OF EPA REGULATIONS IN INDIANA – **OPPOSE**
- HB 1139 OUT-OF-STATE HEALTH INSURANCE – **OPPOSE**
- HB 1141 REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT – **SUPPORT**
- HB 1143 SMALL SCHOOL GRANTS – **OPPOSE**
- HB 1154 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE – **SUPPORT**
- HB 1157 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES – **SUPPORT**
- HB 1160 STUDY OF TAX COURT EFFECTIVENESS – **OPPOSE**
- HB 1164 E-LIQUIDS AND MINORS – **OIP**
- HB 1165 FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS ON UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES – **SUPPORT**
- HB 1170 WARNING DEVICES ON FORKLIFTS – **OPPOSE**
- HB 1175 LOCAL INCOME TAX COLLECTION – **OPPOSE**
- HB 1183 EMPLOYEE PAID SICK LEAVE – **OPPOSE**
- HB 1188 DISTRIBUTED GENERATION – **SUPPORT**
- HB 1192 BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT – **SUPPORT**
- HB 1193 APPOINTMENT OF STATE OFFICERS – **SIP/OIP**
- HB 1194 CERTIFIED TECHNOLOGY PARKS – **SUPPORT**
- HB 1199 SMALL CLAIMS COURTS – **SUPPORT**
- HB 1208 STUDY OF WATER UTILITY SERVICE – **SIP**
- HB 1209 ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT – **SUPPORT**
- HB 1211 TRANSBORDER GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY – **SIP**
- HB 1212 WORK SHARING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT – **SUPPORT**
- HB 1213 OVERTIME COMPENSATION FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES – **OPPOSE**

HB 1220 STAFF PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS – **SIP/OIP**  
HB 1228 DISTRIBUTION OF CHOICE SCHOLARSHIPS – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1230 REGULATION OF COAL COMBUSTION RESIDUALS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1232 ELIMINATION OF TOWNSHIP BOARDS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1240 GARNISHMENT OF WAGES – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1247 PROPERTY TAX REPLACEMENT FEE – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1266 PERFORMANCE AND PAYMENT BONDS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1267 FORMER OFFENDERS – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1276 PRODUCT LIABILITY ACTIONS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1281 VARIOUS HIGHER EDUCATION MATTERS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1283 AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION – **OIP**  
HB 1300 FREE OR REDUCED UTILITY RATES IN INCENTIVE AREAS – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1302 SCHOOL REFERENDUM GRANTS – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1311 STATE AND LOCAL TAX ISSUES – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1313 SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1315 LOCAL LABOR FOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1320 CIGARETTE TAXES – **SIP**  
HB 1322 EMPLOYEE TRAINING TAX CREDITS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1328 CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS FOR STATE PROJECTS – **OIP**  
HB 1331 TELEMEDICINE AND MEDICAL SERVICES – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1341 RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – **SIP/OIP**  
HB 1348 LOCAL SERVICE FEES ON TAX-EXEMPT PROPERTY – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1351 MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT VEHICLE RENTAL EXCISE TAX – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1363 TAX CREDIT FOR MANUFACTURE OF ENERGY DEVICES – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1371 PROPERTY TAX LIABILITY – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1372 SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATIONS – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1374 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1382 CHARTER SCHOOLS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1383 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1384 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1385 DUAL LANGUAGE PILOT PROGRAM – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1386 COMPETENCY BASED EDUCATION – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1388 BATTERY ON A UTILITY WORKER – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1389 TEACHER BONUSES – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1396 TEACHER LICENSING FOR MILITARY SPOUSES – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1397 WORK OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1408 NONRESIDENTIAL ON-SITE SEWAGE SYSTEM PERMIT – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1414 LOCAL INCOME TAXES – **SIP**  
HB 1419 AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIPS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1433 SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – **SIP**  
HB 1449 TEACHER INDUCTION PILOT PROGRAM – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1458 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1463 TEACHERS' DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1464 WORK SHARING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1469 PHARMACY REMOTE DISPENSING FACILITY REGISTRATION – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1470 MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT DATA – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1480 BATTERY ON UTILITY EMPLOYEES – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1486 HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE AND COST INFORMATION – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1490 CIGARETTE TAX – **SIP**  
HB 1495 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1503 VENTURE CAPITAL TAX CREDITS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1506 LIMIT ON ASSESSED VALUE DEDUCTIONS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1528 PERSONAL LEAVE FOR EMPLOYEES – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1529 DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1530 PHASEOUT OF TUITION AT PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES – **OPPOSE**

HB 1531 MONTHLY SERVICE OUTAGE CAPS FOR ELECTRIC UTILITIES – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1544 COVERAGE FOR ABUSE DETERRENT OPIOID – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1546 USE OF TAX INCREMENT FINANCING REVENUES – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1556 ENTERPRISE ZONES – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1564 CITY AND TOWN COURT JUDGES – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1567 INCOME TAX DEDUCTION – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1578 CIGARETTE TAXES AND SMOKING AGE – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1588 FIREARMS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1589 RESERVE AND NATIONAL GUARD MEMBER BENEFITS – **SIP**  
HB 1597 LOCATION OF WIND TURBINE FACILITIES – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1601 CERTIFIED TECHNOLOGY PARKS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1605 UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1611 TAX INCENTIVES FOR HIRING EX-OFFENDERS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1614 EARLY EDUCATION GRANT PILOT PROGRAM – **SIP**  
HB 1640 SCHOOL BUILDINGS – **SIP**

## **SENATE**

SB 3 PAID PERSONAL LEAVE – **OPPOSE**  
SB 8 PUBLIC INITIATIVES – **OPPOSE**  
SB 11 COVERAGE FOR ABUSE DETERRENT OPIOIDS – **OPPOSE**  
SB 23 USE OF CONSUMER REPORTS FOR EMPLOYMENT PURPOSES – **OPPOSE**  
SB 35 TEACHER EVALUATIONS – **OPPOSE**  
SB 71 FAIR PAY IN EMPLOYMENT – **OPPOSE**  
SB 72 COVERAGE FOR PHARMACIST CARE – **OPPOSE**  
SB 75 DRUG TESTING OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPLICANTS – **OIP**  
SB 79 MARION COUNTY COURTS – **SUPPORT**  
SB 83 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE ISSUES – **SUPPORT**  
SB 88 SCHOOL CALENDAR – **OPPOSE**  
SB 106 AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP COUNTS IN SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA – **OPPOSE**  
SB 108 EDUCATION MATTERS – **OIP/NIP**  
SB 109 ACCREDITATION OF SCHOOLS – **SUPPORT**  
SB 111 SCHOOL CALENDAR – **OPPOSE**  
SB 116 OUT OF SCHOOL TIME PILOT PROGRAM AND FUND – **SIP**  
SB 128 REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT – **SUPPORT**  
SB 135 IMPROPER WORKER CLASSIFICATION – **OPPOSE**  
SB 141 TAX CREDIT FOR HIRING CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS – **SIP**  
SB 147 HEALTH FACILITY EMPLOYEE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK – **OPPOSE**  
SB 150 BAN ON SALE OR USE OF COAL TAR PAVEMENT PRODUCTS – **OPPOSE**  
SB 159 STATE EXAMINER FINDINGS – **SUPPORT**  
SB 164 ELIMINATION OF ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS TO ASSESSED VALUES – **OPPOSE**  
SB 172 SALES TAX ON RECREATIONAL VEHICLES – **SUPPORT**  
SB 179 SELECTION OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION – **SUPPORT**  
SB 182 SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACTS – **SIP**  
SB 224 PREKINDERGARTEN STATUS REPORT – **SIP/OIP**  
SB 236 ASBESTOS LITIGATION – **SUPPORT**  
SB 240 INDIANA SCHOOL COUNSELING PILOT PROGRAM – **SIP**  
SB 244 FISCAL IMPACT STUDY OF DRUGS AND DRUG ADDICTION – **SUPPORT**  
SB 248 CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS – **SUPPORT**  
SB 251 PREVAILING WAGE – **OPPOSE**  
SB 252 MINIMUM WAGE – **OPPOSE**  
SB 260 TAX RATES – **OPPOSE**  
SB 266 SPECIAL FUEL TAXATION – **SIP**  
SB 267 INVESTMENT OF PUBLIC MONEY – **OPPOSE**  
SB 269 PROTECTIVE ORDERS AND EMPLOYMENT – **OPPOSE**

SB 276 EARLY EDUCATION GRANT PILOT PROGRAM – **SUPPORT**  
SB 277 HEALTHY FOOD INITIATIVE PILOT PROGRAM – **SUPPORT**  
SB 281 BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT – **SUPPORT**  
SB 284 EDUCATOR EXPENSE TAX CREDIT – **SUPPORT**  
SB 286 SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS AND EVALUATIONS – **OPPOSE**  
SB 290 STUDENT LOAN ASSISTANCE – **SIP/OIP**  
SB 291 RIGHT TO WORK OUT – **OPPOSE**  
SB 303 DIRECT PRIMARY CARE AGREEMENTS – **SIP**  
SB 304 INDIVIDUAL OUT-OF-STATE HEALTH INSURANCE – **OPPOSE**  
SB 305 GROUP HEALTH COVERAGE FOR FARMERS – **SUPPORT**  
SB 308 ASSESSMENT OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR RENT – **SUPPORT**  
SB 309 DISTRIBUTED GENERATION – **SUPPORT**  
SB 311 SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATIONS – **OPPOSE**  
SB 312 USE OF CRIMINAL HISTORY INFORMATION IN HIRING – **SUPPORT**  
SB 318 MINIMUM WAGE – **OPPOSE**  
SB 325 VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM – **SIP/OIP**  
SB 326 PRODUCER RECYCLING OF WASTE PACKAGING AND PAPER – **OPPOSE**  
SB 330 CAREER READINESS IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE – **SIP**  
SB 349 EXPEDITED TEACHER LICENSING FOR MILITARY SPOUSES – **SUPPORT**  
SB 357 TAX CREDIT FOR TOLL ROAD CHARGES – **OPPOSE**  
SB 369 ELIGIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE VOUCHER – **SIP/OIP**  
SB 373 HOMELAND SECURITY MATTERS – **SUPPORT**  
SB 376 RURAL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION GOVERNANCE – **SUPPORT**  
SB 378 TAX CREDIT FOR BRIDGE TOLL EXPENSES – **OPPOSE**  
SB 379 TAX DEDUCTION FOR OHIO RIVER BRIDGE TOLLS – **OPPOSE**  
SB 416 INFRASTRUCTURE ASSISTANCE FUND – **SUPPORT**  
SB 421 ABOVE GROUND STORAGE TANKS – **SUPPORT**  
SB 422 APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION – **SUPPORT**  
SB 428 AGE FOR COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE – **SUPPORT**  
SB 431 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY – **OPPOSE**  
SB 440 VARIOUS TAX MATTERS – **SUPPORT**  
SB 444 TELEMEDICINE – **SUPPORT**  
SB 449 PROPERTY TAX AUDIT CONTRACTOR COMPENSATION – **SUPPORT**  
SB 451 INDIANA WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT – **SUPPORT**  
SB 453 INDIANA COMMERCE CONNECTOR – **SUPPORT**  
SB 463 WORKER MISCLASSIFICATION ISSUES – **SIP/OIP**  
SB 464 TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES – **OIP**  
SB 465 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TAXING POWER – **SUPPORT**  
SB 472 REQUESTS TO LOCATE UNDERGROUND UTILITY FACILITIES – **SUPPORT**  
SB 484 REGIONAL TRAINING FACILITY FUNDING – **SIP**  
SB 487 PROHIBITED DISCRIMINATION IN CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES – **SUPPORT**  
SB 502 STORM WATER FEE EXEMPTIONS – **OIP**  
SB 503 TEACHER EVALUATIONS AND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE – **OPPOSE**  
SB 504 PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS – **SUPPORT**  
SB 507 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – **SIP**  
SB 511 WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITIES – **SUPPORT**  
SB 515 TAX ADMINISTRATION – **SIP/OIP**  
SB 525 CORPORATE INCOME TAX RATES – **OPPOSE**  
SB 530 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND DEFICIT FINANCING – **OPPOSE**  
SB 531 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FOR TEACHERS – **OPPOSE**  
SB 533 VETERANS – **SIP**  
SB 534 SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT PROGRAM – **SUPPORT**  
SB 536 STUDENT ASSESSMENTS – **OIP**  
SB 537 ELECTRIC POWER GRID SECURITY – **SUPPORT**  
SB 541 EMPLOYER TRAINING EXPENSE TAX CREDIT – **SUPPORT**

SB 542 TEACHER COMPENSATION – **OPPOSE**

SB 543 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES – **SIP/OIP**

SB 545 SALES TAX COLLECTION BY REMOTE SELLERS – **SUPPORT**

SB 546 TAX COURT REORGANIZATION – **OPPOSE**

SB 553 REGULATION OF COAL COMBUSTION RESIDUALS – **SUPPORT**

SB 555 TEACHER PERFORMANCE GRANTS – **OPPOSE**

SB 560 WORK OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM – **SUPPORT**