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Legislative Agenda

Chamber Outlines Bill Positions

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

This second 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 second edition considers all bills as of 3/3. 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.

HOUSE BILLS

HB 1001 BIENNIAL BUDGET (T. Brown)
Appropriates money for capital expenditures, the operation of the state, K-12 and higher education, the delivery of Medicaid and other services, as well as various other distributions and purposes. 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. Establishes the Medicaid provider reimbursement fund for deposit of a part of the cigarette taxes, registration fees, fines and penalties collected under the cigarette tax law. Increases the maximum school scholarship income tax credits that may be awarded during a state fiscal year beginning after June 30, 2017, to be the greater of \$12.5 million or the total amount of credits awarded in the most recent state fiscal year multiplied by 120%. Makes the venture capital investment tax credit transferrable and eliminates its expiration. Has elements of the "\$1 billion over 10 years" innovation and entrepreneurship initiative, which includes \$20 million investment in the Indiana Biosciences Research Institute,

creates the "next level" fund Indiana board of trustees to develop investment policy to allow investments in Indiana funds and firms. Provides that a governmental entity may issue a request for information with respect to a public-private agreement. Changes the expiration dates for the hospital assessment fee and the health facility quality assessment fee from June 30, 2017, to June 30, 2021. Provides for K-12 school funding. Permits a transfer of up to \$25 million in each state fiscal year from the state tuition reserve account to the state general fund to cover for any reduction in state tuition support distributions because choice scholarships exceed estimates. Establishes the school corporation efficiency incentive grant program. Makes numerous additional appropriations and changes. **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, as well as the cigarette tax.

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, not to exceed one cent per gallon per year, and ends the index factor in 2024. Increases alternative fuel decal fees by 50%. Establishes a \$15 transportation infrastructure improvement fee that applies to all motor vehicle registrations. Initiates a \$150 annual electric vehicle registration fee, with an increase every five years based on an index factor. Provides that the gasoline use tax is distributed to highway funds in 2018. 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 million. ... **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). Provides, beginning after June 30, 2017, that a high school must administer an end of course examination in the subjects of: (1) English/language arts; (2) science; and (3) algebra I. 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. 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 for the expiration of Indiana Works Councils on July 1, 2018. Repeals provisions establishing the advisory committee on career and technical education. Specifies the requirements for the award of a high-value workforce ready credit-bearing grant and a high value workforce ready noncredit-bearing grant. Adds an applicant who attends or has attended an accredited nonpublic school or a nonaccredited nonpublic school as eligible to receive a high-value workforce ready credit-bearing grant. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** We support the language requiring an audit of all workforce programs (including funding streams) to ensure that dollars are being spent wisely and appropriately, as well as the creation of a high value workforce ready grant to support students that seek a certification in high-demand high-wage fields.

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. **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 1031 STATE EXAMINER FINDINGS (Slager)
Specifies requirements for corrective action when audited entities fail to comply with certain guidelines or laws. Requires the fiscal body of an audited entity that is not a state agency, body corporate and politic or state educational institution to freeze the amount of an audited entity's budget that is allocated to the office of a public officer of the audited entity, if the public officer fails to comply with a uniform compliance guideline or a specific law. **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 change due to the US 7th Circuit Court of Appeals affirming Marion County's selection process to be unconstitutional. 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 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. Changes the manner in which notice of a claimant's registration, failure to register, renewal or continuation of the claimant's claim for unemployment benefits may be provided to an employer. Requires that the training grants paid from the special employment and training services fund be paid each state fiscal year before expenditures from the fund are made for any other purpose. ... **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 SMALL BUSINESS DUPLICATIVE REPORTING (Miller)
Requires the Indiana Economic Development Corporation to: (1) develop a means for small business reporting of duplicative state reporting requirements through the Office of Technology Computer Gateway; and (2) annually report the received information to the House of Representatives' standing committee responsible for government reduction. ... **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 1209 ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT (Negele)
Makes organized retail theft a Level 6 felony for a person to knowingly: (1) take, procure, receive, conceal or otherwise exerts 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 1281 VARIOUS HIGHER EDUCATION MATTERS (Sullivan)

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. Amends the provision regarding the use of renewals and extensions of certain grants or reductions in tuition or fees for professional degree programs or accelerated graduate degree programs. Allows recipients of certain grants, scholarships or remissions of fees to: (1) use, with certain limitations, funds from the grants, scholarship or remissions of fees to pay for costs associated with prior learning assessments that the student attempts to earn during the academic year in which the student receives the grants, scholarships or remissions of fees; and (2) count anticipated credit hours for prior learning assessments toward attendance requirements. ... **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 1350 GAMING TAXES (Huston)

Provides that certain tax rates apply to a riverboat in a historic hotel district. Makes the supplemental wagering tax 3% of a riverboat's adjusted gross receipts (AGR) for a riverboat that has relocated to an inland casino. Provides that the supplemental wagering tax shall be imposed starting the day operations begin at an inland casino. Provides that the Indiana income tax add-back for: (1) 70% of deductions in state fiscal year 2019; and (2) 40% of deductions in state fiscal year 2020; is required for any deduction allowed on the taxpayer's federal income tax return for wagering taxes. Provides that after state fiscal year 2020, the Indiana income tax add-back for deductions allowed under the Internal Revenue Code for taxes based on or measured by income and levied at the state level does not apply to any deduction allowed on the taxpayer's federal income tax return for wagering taxes. Makes numerous additional changes. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports the phase out and ultimate elimination of the current Indiana requirement to add back income that is

deductible at the federal level. The add-back constitutes a tax on tax, an income tax on the wagering tax or double taxation. **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 1382 CHARTER SCHOOLS (Behning)

Changes the definition of a charter school organizer and changes some specific requirements for authorizers. 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. Requires a virtual charter school to adopt a student engagement policy. **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)

Provides that, not later than July 1, 2019, the State Board of Education shall adopt rules to establish one or more elementary school teacher content area licenses that must, at a minimum, include a content area license in the subject matter of math and science. **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)

Provides 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, the department shall assign the student to the high school at which the student was enrolled for the greatest proportion of school days during the school year for purposes of calculating a school's graduation rate. Provides that before July 1, 2018, the State Board of Education shall establish a definition of a high mobility school for schools with a high concentration of

mobile students. Provides that, after June 30, 2018, the State Board shall, in addition to placing a school in a category or designation of school improvement, assign a school grade for a high mobility school. Provides that the grade calculated is for informational purposes only and may not be used to calculate 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 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 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 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 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. Establishes the Indiana educator residency pilot program. Urges the Legislative Council to assign the issue of teacher residency programs to the appropriate study committee. ...

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 1450 PROPERTY TAX MATTERS (Leonard)

Provides that a political subdivision must upload a copy of a contract that the political subdivision enters into after June 30, 2016, to the Indiana transparency web site if the total cost of the contract exceeds \$50,000. Provides that a multiple county property tax assessment board of appeals shall submit to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF), the Indiana Board of Tax Review and the Legislative Services Agency separate reports for each county participating in the multiple county property tax assessment board of appeals. Provides that the DLGF may adopt a rule after June 30, 2016, and before September 1, 2017, that concerns or includes market segmentation and affects assessments for the January 1, 2018, assessment date. Provides that interest on a refund or credit owed to a taxpayer is computed until the date the county auditor determines the amount of the refund or credit. ...

Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason: The Chamber backs the requirement that contracts over \$50,000 must be uploaded to the Indiana transparency web site.

Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887

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 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 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 1519 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT ZONE UTILITY SERVICE (VanNatter)

Adds wastewater to an already existing law that allows gas and water utilities to extend services to unserved or underserved areas for purposed of economic development. Provides that facilities used by a wastewater utility in the collection or treatment of wastewater constitute "eligible infrastructure" for purposes of the law providing a property tax exemption to a person who invests in eligible infrastructure located in an infrastructure development zone. Authorizes a public utility that provides water utility service to petition the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) for approval of a plan to develop a future water source supply. Also urges the Legislative Council to assign the Interim Study Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications the topic of lead service improvements by water utilities. ...

Position: SUPPORT Reason: This bill is consistent with the drivers of the Chamber's *Indiana Vision 2025* plan which has identified water resources as an important consideration in economic development. The bill makes sense in that it will allow a utility to extend wastewater service to an area in which it could already extend water service for purposes of economic development. (The IURC must first review and approve before

service can be extended.) It attempts to control costs of making improvements to infrastructure and developing future water resources.

Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881

HB 1564 CITY/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 1578 TOBACCO USE (Kirchhofer)

Repeals employment protections for individuals who smoke cigarettes or use other tobacco products. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** One in five Hoosiers still smokes, making Indiana the 39th worst state in percentage of smokers. Tobacco also costs Indiana more than \$6 billion annually in health care costs and lost productivity. Specifically, it costs business \$5,800 more per year for a smoker than for a non-smoker. The Indiana Chamber does not believe that smokers should be a protected class as they currently are under Indiana law. Repealing this statute will give employers more options to control the costs of smoking and assist employees to quit.

Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883

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

SENATE BILLS

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 that an initial school improvement plan must be established and approved by the governing body not later than August 1 of the school year in which the plan is to be implemented. Requires: (1) the Indiana Education Employment Relations Board to publish a model compensation plan with a model salary range that a school corporation may adopt; (2) each school corporation to submit its local compensation plan to the board; and (3) the board to publish local compensation plans on the board's web site. Provides that the board: (1) shall review a compensation plan for compliance; and (2) has jurisdiction to determine compliance of a compensation plan submitted. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The trigger threshold for the State Board of Education to intervene with failing schools should be kept at the current rate of four years instead of six years, which was removed from the bill. We support the idea of model compensation plans for school corporations and of school improvement plans.

Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880

SB 128 REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT (Messmer)

Authorizes a regional development 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:** The Chamber supports this enabling legislation that allows an area of the state to create a regional development authority to provide supplemental local funding to build a priority highway project. If 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

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 noncompliance 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 172 SALES TAX ON RECREATIONAL VEHICLES (Doriot)

Provides that in the case of a transaction that: (1) occurs after June 30, 2017, and before July 1, 2019; (2) is not exempt from sales tax; and (3) involves a cargo trailer or recreational vehicle that: (A) is purchased by a nonresident; (B) the purchaser intends to transport outside Indiana and title or register in another state or country; and (C) will not be titled or registered in Indiana; the sales tax rate on the cargo trailer or recreational vehicle is the rate of the other state or other country in Sales tax on recreational vehicles and cargo trailers. Provides that in the case of a transaction that: (1) occurs after June 30, 2017, and before July 1, 2019; (2) is not exempt from sales tax; and (3) involves a cargo trailer or recreational vehicle that: (A) is purchased by a nonresident; (B) the purchaser intends to transport outside Indiana and title or register in another state or country; and (C) will not be titled or registered in Indiana; the sales tax rate on the cargo trailer or recreational vehicle is the rate of the other state or other country in which the cargo trailer or recreational vehicle will be titled or registered, as certified by the seller and purchaser in an affidavit. ... **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. This bill will reduce and potentially lead to the elimination of the competitive disadvantage currently suffered by Indiana dealers in dealing with customers who intend to register their vehicle in another state.

Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887

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 one year and not more than three years. (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 the amount equal to the lesser of: (A) the superintendent's salary for any one year under the contract; or (B) \$250,000. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** 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. We worked with the author to add an amendment that would allow for renewal contracts to go for an additional five years.

Contact: Caryl Auslander (317) 264-6880

SB 213 SUPPORT STRUCTURES FOR WIRELESS FACILITIES (Hershman)

Makes the following changes concerning local permitting of wireless support structures: (1) Amends the definition of “small cell facility” to regarding size of antennas. (2) Amends the definition of “utility pole”. (3) Amends the definition of “wireless support structure” to include structures capable of supporting (in addition to those designed to support) wireless facilities. (4) Defines a “communications service provider” as a person or an entity that offers communications service to customers in Indiana, without regard to the technology or medium used to provide the service. (5) Defines a “micro wireless facility” as a small cell facility that does not exceed certain specified dimensions. (6) Prohibits a permit authority from requiring an application or a permit for, or charging fees for routine maintenance or replacement of wireless facilities with others that are similar. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill makes it easier for communities to receive the next generation in 5G technology for mobile devices.

Contact: Mark Lawrance (317) 264-7547

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 248 CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS (Raatz)

Allows two or more school corporations situated in the same or adjoining counties to consolidate in a manner in which debts or obligations paid by a debt service levy incurred by a school corporation before the new consolidated school corporation comes into existence may be levied only on the taxpayers of the subunit that initially incurred the debt or obligation before consolidation. Provides that the resolution consolidating the school corporations may declare: (1) that administrative functions of each subunit will be consolidated in the proposed consolidated school corporation; and (2) that the name or attendance area of each school within a subunit may remain unchanged after the date the consolidated school corporation comes into existence. ... **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

SB 253 STUDY OF VOLUNTARY PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE (Tallian)

Urges the Legislative Council to assign the topic of establishing a voluntary paid family and medical leave program to the Interim Study Committee on Employment and Labor or another appropriate study committee. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Indiana Women’s Commission was awarded \$202,500 from the U.S. Department of Labor to conduct a paid leave study. If the Legislative Council assigns this topic to the Interim Study Committee on Employment and Labor, the committee may review those research findings. The Chamber believes that there would be no harm in simply discussing the research findings of the Indiana Women’s Commission. It should be noted, however, that the Chamber is opposed to any expansion of FMLA – at the federal or state levels – that would bring additional financial or administrative burdens on businesses.

Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883

SB 276 EARLY EDUCATION GRANT PILOT PROGRAM (Holdman)

Provides that, after June 30, 2017, the early education grant pilot program includes eligible providers in any county in Indiana. Adds additional requirements for an eligible provider to participate in the pilot program. Adds additional requirements for an eligible child to qualify for or receive a grant under the pilot program. ... Requires the Department of Education to approve an early learning development framework for pre-kindergarten. Makes an appropriation to the fund of \$16 million in both state fiscal years 2017 and 2018. Specifies that of the \$16 million appropriated in a state fiscal year, \$1 million amount must be used for reimbursement of in-home (online) early education services. **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 program to be administered by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority 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 authority 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. Specifies the permissible uses of grants and loans. Establishes the healthy food

initiative fund for purposes of awarding grants and loans under the program. Requires the authority to establish criteria for the evaluation of the health impact of the program and to evaluate the grants and loans awarded under the program according to the criteria. Requires an annual report. Specifies that the law establishing the program expires July 1, 2021. **Position:** **SUPPORT Reason:** Indiana ranks 36th worst in the nation for 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

SB 303 DIRECT PRIMARY CARE AGREEMENTS (Koch)

Specifies that a direct primary care agreement is not insurance and a primary care provider or an employer of 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. **Position:** **SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The potential for increasing access to affordable care might be possible with this legislation.

Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883

SB 309 DISTRIBUTED GENERATION (Hershman)

Expands current law for the location of cogeneration facilities, adds competitive procurement in the construction of an electric facility and changes the current law for net metering (it does not kill solar and wind generation). Requires 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 electric utility on its web site and the electric utility subject to the review to provide a link on its web site to the IURC's posted summary. Provides for competitive procurement in the construction of an electric facility with a generating capacity of more than 80 megawatts. Provides that a net metering tariff of an electricity supplier (other than a municipally owned utility or REMC) must remain available to the electric utility's customers until at least 1.5% of its most recent summer peak load is reached or July 1, 2022. It also grandfathers the current net metering rate for 30 years to a customer that installs a net metering facility on the customer's premises before July 1, 2017, or until the customer no longer owns, occupies or resides at the premises on which the net metering facility is located. The rate for excess distributed generation procured by an electric utility must be equal to 125% of the wholesale rate for the customers not grandfathered at the higher rate. **Position: SUPPORT**

Reason: This bill is truly a compromise of long-standing issues that industrial users and businesses, as well as residential ratepayers, 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.

Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881

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. Provides that criminal history information concerning an employee or former employee may not be introduced against an employer, an employer's agents or an employer's employees in a civil action based on the employee's or the former employee's conduct if: (1) the criminal history information does not bear a direct relationship to the facts underlying the civil action; (2) the records of the criminal case have been sealed; (3) the criminal conviction has been reversed, vacated or expunged; (4) the employee or former employer has received a pardon for the criminal conviction; or (5) the arrest or charge did not result in a criminal conviction. ... **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 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 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 440 VARIOUS TAX MATTERS (Holdman)
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. Requires the Indiana Department of Revenue to adopt certain procedures for department employees to follow in mailing documents that provide notice to a taxpayer. Specifies the content of a notice to a taxpayer that establishes a deadline for the taxpayer to act or respond. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The provisions of this bill address 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 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 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 501 PROPERTY TAX (Freeman)
Makes procedural changes and technical corrections to various property tax provisions in the Indiana Code that relate to property tax assessments, reviews, appeals and refunds. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART/OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports the effort to recodify, clarify and streamline the procedures that apply to property tax appeals. However, the Chamber opposes the changes in this bill that operate to restrict or limit the rights that the taxpayers currently enjoy regarding the timing and ability to file appeals.
Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887

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. Eliminates the expiration provisions in current law for the venture capital investment tax credit and the Hoosier business investment tax credit. Repeals the statute authorizing the establishment of the twenty-first century research and technology fund grant office. Transfers the duties of small business and entrepreneurship to the IEDC. Specifies that the IEDC shall submit the quarterly and annual reports concerning the Indiana twenty-first century research and technology fund to both the Budget Committee and the Legislative Council. **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 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. Amends the due date for a corporation to file its state tax return to coincide with the due date for the corporation's federal tax return. ... **Position: SUPPORT IN**

PART/OPOSE 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 its state return. Making the state return due on the same date as 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 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

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 1031 STATE EXAMINER FINDINGS – **SUPPORT**
HB 1036 MARION COUNTY JUDICIAL SELECTION – **SUPPORT**
HB 1154 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE – **SUPPORT**
HB 1157 SMALL BUSINESS DUPLICATIVE REPORTING – **SUPPORT**
HB 1209 ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT – **SUPPORT**
HB 1211 TRANSBORDER GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY – **SIP**
HB 1281 VARIOUS HIGHER EDUCATION MATTERS – **SUPPORT**
HB 1350 GAMING TAXES – **SIP**
HB 1351 MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT VEHICLE RENTAL EXCISE TAX – **SUPPORT**
HB 1382 CHARTER SCHOOLS – **SUPPORT**
HB 1383 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS – **SUPPORT**
HB 1384 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION – **SUPPORT**
HB 1386 COMPETENCY BASED EDUCATION – **SUPPORT**
HB 1396 TEACHER LICENSING FOR MILITARY SPOUSES – **SUPPORT**
HB 1408 NONRESIDENTIAL ON-SITE SEWAGE SYSTEM PERMIT – **SUPPORT**
HB 1449 TEACHER INDUCTION PILOT PROGRAM – **SUPPORT**
HB 1450 PROPERTY TAX MATTERS – **SIP**
HB 1463 TEACHERS' DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN – **SUPPORT**
HB 1470 MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT DATA – **SUPPORT**
HB 1495 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT – **SUPPORT**
HB 1519 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT ZONE UTILITY SERVICE – **SUPPORT**
HB 1564 CITY AND TOWN COURT JUDGES – **OPPOSE**
HB 1578 TOBACCO USE – **SUPPORT**
HB 1601 CERTIFIED TECHNOLOGY PARKS – **SUPPORT**

SENATE

SB 108 EDUCATION MATTERS – **SUPPORT**
SB 128 REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT – **SUPPORT**
SB 159 STATE EXAMINER FINDINGS – **SUPPORT**
SB 172 SALES TAX ON RECREATIONAL VEHICLES – **SUPPORT**
SB 182 SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACTS – **SUPPORT**
SB 213 SUPPORT STRUCTURES FOR WIRELESS FACILITIES – **SUPPORT**
SB 224 PREKINDERGARTEN STATUS REPORT – **SIP/OIP**
SB 248 CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS – **SUPPORT**
SB 253 STUDY OF VOLUNTARY PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE – **SUPPORT**

SB 276 EARLY EDUCATION GRANT PILOT PROGRAM – **SUPPORT**
SB 277 HEALTHY FOOD INITIATIVE PILOT PROGRAM – **SUPPORT**
SB 303 DIRECT PRIMARY CARE AGREEMENTS – **SIP**
SB 309 DISTRIBUTED GENERATION – **SUPPORT**
SB 312 USE OF CRIMINAL HISTORY INFORMATION IN HIRING – **SUPPORT**
SB 376 RURAL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION GOVERNANCE – **SUPPORT**
SB 379 TAX DEDUCTION FOR OHIO RIVER BRIDGE TOLLS – **OPPOSE**
SB 416 INFRASTRUCTURE ASSISTANCE FUND – **SUPPORT**
SB 421 ABOVE GROUND STORAGE TANKS – **SUPPORT**
SB 440 VARIOUS TAX MATTERS – **SUPPORT**
SB 449 PROPERTY TAX AUDIT CONTRACTOR COMPENSATION – **SUPPORT**
SB 472 REQUESTS TO LOCATE UNDERGROUND UTILITY FACILITIES – **SUPPORT**
SB 501 PROPERTY TAX – **SIP/OIP**
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 545 SALES TAX COLLECTION BY REMOTE SELLERS – **SUPPORT**
SB 546 TAX COURT REORGANIZATION – **OPPOSE**