

Legislative

Update

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2010 Legislative Update - Week 2

All in all, the first two weeks of the 2010 legislative session have been active and spirited. This is a “short” session, so things typically get off to a quicker start than the long sessions. It has been particularly fast and furious this year with committees busily working and several major issues already moving through the process. This past week saw HJR 1, the 1-2-3 property tax cap bill, be approved by the House 75-23, and move through committee and 2nd reading in the Senate, with a final vote set for Monday. That measure could be on the Governor’s desk for signature into law as early as next week.

Another issue of note concerns township government reform. HB 1181 requires a public referendum on retaining township trustees and boards. The referendum would be on the November 2010 general election ballot in each township throughout the state and would ask voters whether they want to retain a township trustee and township board. It provides that if a majority of voters in a township do not approve the retention of the township trustee and board, the powers and duties of the trustee and township board will be transferred to the county on January 1, 2012. This bill is moving, having passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 54-44.

Legislation relating to the electric utility industry generally and municipal electrics specifically is currently focused on net metering (see track list for HB 1094 and SB 313). This past week, the House Commerce, Energy, Technology and Utilities Committee considered, but did not vote on, House Bill 1094. That bill will likely be considered again next week. The Senate Utilities and Technology Committee will also be taking up a net metering measure at their meeting Thursday. Other issues dealing with renewable energy standards and rate adjustment mechanisms are also on the radar screen.

REMINDER: 2010 Municipal Electric Legislative Reception

Tuesday evening January 19th
Marriott Hotel (downtown Indianapolis)
Ballrooms 1-4
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

I hope that you will be able to attend. Please RSVP by January 13th!!