

Legislative

Update

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2010 Legislative Update - Week 1

Political. Partisan. Bitter. Intense. Election year. Those are all words that can be used as we talk about what has been happening during the first week of the 2010 Indiana General Assembly legislative session - the first of a 10-week session that promises to nothing if not spirited.

Already this first week, we have seen the House of Representatives take up what is probably one of the top 2 or 3 issues of the session -- putting property tax caps into the state's Constitution. House Joint Resolution 1, which places the 1%, 2%, and 3% property tax caps in the Constitution, was approved in 2008, but must pass a second time by a separately (consecutively) elected General Assembly. The opportunity to pass it again was either during the 2009 session or this year. The legislature did not vote on it last year. So, in 2010, if HJR 1 changes in any way, it must then start the process from the beginning, and that would mean that the public would not be able to vote on it until 2014 at the earliest. This year, it appears that HJR 1 is on a pretty fast course toward approval, as it has cleared second reading and is now ready for a full House vote next week. In the Senate, Senate Joint Resolution 1, which also puts the tax caps into the Constitution, is eligible for second reading and potentially a final Senate vote next week, as well.

One of the other major issues of this session is also moving forward – legislative ethics and lobbying reform. House Bill 1001 is eligible for a final House vote early next week.

In addition to these bills, there are several other issues and bills of interest that will be considered during the remaining 9 weeks of this legislative session. For municipal electrics, some of those issues include renewable energy standards, net metering, and local government reform. As more developments take place, we will be watching closely.

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!!