

# Legislative

# Update

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## 2010 Legislative Update - Week 3

Week three of the 2010 legislative session is now complete. The pace continues to be fast and furious. This last week saw a significant ramp up in committee activity in both the House of Representatives and in the Senate. The Governor also gave his annual State of the State address to the General Assembly on Tuesday evening, speaking primarily about how Indiana is faring during one of the worst economic downturns in our state's history. The Governor also touched on issues pertaining to education, jobs, and government reforms (including legislative and lobbying ethics reform).

With a little more than 800 pieces of legislation introduced this year, time is and will continue to be of the essence. The deadline for committees to act on bills in their chamber of origin is January 28th, with the deadline for final passage out of the first house on February 3rd. While there has been some discussion among the Leaders in both Chambers about an earlier adjournment of the legislature (by statute they must complete their work by March 14th), it remains to be seen if some of the weightier issues can be resolved quickly. House Joint Resolution 1 (the 1, 2 and 3 property tax caps legislation) has now been approved by both the House of Representatives and the Senate. It now goes to the Governor for his signature and in the fall, there will be a statewide referendum on placing those caps into the state Constitution.

With regard to electric utility-related issues, there was activity this past week in both the House and Senate on net metering. In the House, House Bill 1094 originally called for an increase in the amount of nameplate capacity that any customer could deploy and applied to all electric utilities in Indiana. The bill was amended in committee on Thursday, and now applies only to investor-owned utilities. Municipal electric utilities are now exempt from the provisions in this bill and retain their ability to voluntarily and pro-actively participate in net metering. In the Senate, Senate Bill 313 was heard in the Senate Utilities Committee. This measure also addresses net metering, but applies only to investor-owned utilities. We will continue to watch both of these pieces of legislation very closely as the session progresses.

There has been no activity regarding the enactment of a renewable portfolio standard. At this point, it appears that issue will not be addressed this year.

For further information on legislation or with any questions or concerns, please contact Carolyn Wright, Vice President of Government and Member Services, at (317) 575-3873 or [cwright@impa.com](mailto:cwright@impa.com).