

State Legislative Update

January 13, 2023

GENERAL LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

- The first full week of the 16 week 2023 “long” legislative session is complete. Most of the ceremonial activities are out of the way and legislators are now settling into what will be a busy four month legislative session.
- The House and Senate bill filing deadline was yesterday, January 12th and today, January 13th, respectively. Introduced legislation is trickling out slowly as is usually the case during a long session. So far, we have seen about 700 House and Senate bills, with many more in the process of being made public for review. There will likely be upwards of 1,500 in total.
- Once all bills are available, the IMPA/Municipal Electric tracking list will be updated throughout the session to reflect all bills that we will be watching.
- Governor Eric Holcomb delivered his seventh State of the State address to the General Assembly on Tuesday evening, January 10th. During that speech, the Governor fully outlined his legislative priorities for the legislature. On Wednesday, Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Loretta Rush delivered the State of the Judiciary address.
- Governor Holcomb’s 2023 “Next Level Agenda” includes a focus on a new, balanced two-year state budget, implementing the Governor’s Public Health Commission recommendations for increased public health funding, increased investment in workforce, as well as economic and community development, and continued historic funding increases for K-12 education. For additional details on the Governor’s proposed agenda, follow this link [2023 Next Level Agenda](#).
- All four caucuses of the IN General Assembly have put forth their respective visions for the session, as well, outlining priority issues each will pursue. While there are several policy areas that have bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, the inevitable partisan wrangling will also take shape on the state budget, tax policy generally, public health, education, and several others.
- On the utility and energy fronts, we anticipate several bills of interest to be introduced and we will be reviewing and watching those closely. While electric industry issues will likely not dominate the session like other issues will, there will be bills pertaining to electric reliability, electric generation, battery storage, electric vehicles, natural gas, water/sewer, as well as other areas of interest such as economic development, environment, and all things local government.

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- In addition to the significant and challenging issues that the legislature will work on this session, there are also the usual efforts to give certain Hoosier items official state endorsed status. In recent years, the mastodon was adopted as the State Fossil (2022), popcorn was crowned the official State Snack (2021), and the firefly was named the State Insect (2018). This year, legislation has been introduced to designate the breaded tenderloin as the official State Sandwich (Senate Bill 322).
- The State House will be closed on Monday, January 16th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The General Assembly will get back to work on Tuesday, with committee meeting schedules ramping up significantly.
- All legislative business, by statute, must be completed by midnight on April 29th. At this point, the General Assembly hopes to finish its work by April 27th. We will be keeping a keen eye on all legislation that could have an impact on IMPA and Indiana's municipal electric utilities.
- All committee and Floor activities for the IN General Assembly can be accessed online at www.iga.in.gov.

