

2021 INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY WEEK 3

- Week 3 of the 2021 legislative session has drawn to a close. However, this week will be known for what did not happen rather than what did.
- All state legislative activities and the entire Indiana State House complex were closed to the public this week out of an abundance of caution as a result of the January 6th riots at the United States Capitol, as well as COVID-19 precautions. State agency staff and legislative staff continued to work remotely throughout the week. There had been widespread anticipation that additional disruptive protests were being planned at state capitols throughout the country for the days leading up to and then on the day of the Presidential inauguration. No credible threats surfaced and fortunately, no such gatherings took place in Indiana.
- With this week's cancelations, the IN General Assembly now faces additional challenges in accomplishing its work this session. Both Chambers will resume their legislative sessions and committees will return to work in earnest next week.
- Both the Indiana House of Representatives and the Senate are past their respective bill filing deadlines, with a total of 1,025 bills introduced for consideration - 605 House bills and 420 Senate bills.
- Governor Holcomb delivered his fifth State of the State address on Tuesday evening this week, albeit in a very different forum than any previous State of the State speech by any Governor. Due to the pandemic, this year's State of the State occurred without all of the ceremonial accompaniments that the State House environment allows for this event. The Governor spoke via a virtual, pre-recorded format to outline Indiana's current state of affairs and his policy vision going forward. He remains focused on getting Hoosier citizens and businesses through the COVID crisis, continuing Indiana's economic successes of the last several months and years, increasing education funding, advancing a balanced and structured state budget, and expanding broadband access throughout the state.
- With this week's legislative calendar being cancelled in its entirety, next week promises to be busy with committees working to make up a bit of lost time. The House Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications Committee will meet Tuesday next week, hearing House Bills 1191, 1220, 1287 and 1385. Please see the IMPA Tracking List for bill details. We anticipate the Senate Utilities Committee will meet, but an agenda is not yet available.
- On a Hoosier note, now former Vice President Mike Pence attended the inauguration of President Biden on Wednesday. Upon the conclusion of that event, he and former Second Lady Karen Pence departed for Columbus, Indiana where they were greeted by a contingent of friends and family - including Lt. Governor Crouch and his brother, US Congressman Greg Pence -- at the Columbus Regional Airport. Based on his comments to the crowd, he and Mrs. Pence will be moving back home to Indiana at some point in 2021.