



STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

January 10, 2020

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2020 Indiana General Assembly Week 1

- ▲ The 2020 “short” legislative session is off to a fast start and is now complete. By statute, the Indiana General Assembly must adjourn by Saturday, March 14th. However, it is widely presumed that legislators will conclude their business by March 11th.
- ▲ The deadline to file bills for consideration this year was Thursday January 9th. There are now just 2 ½ weeks for committee hearings to be held, and all bills must clear the first chamber or be dead for the session in just over 3 weeks.
- ▲ Governor Holcomb will deliver the State of the State address to a joint session of the General Assembly on Tuesday evening, January 14th, during which he will outline his priorities for the session.
- ▲ Below is a list of key dates for the first half of the 2020 legislative session:
 - **Monday January 13th** – IMPA Legislative Reception & Dinner at the IN Historical Society – it’s not too late to RSVP to me or Karen Pomeroy at IMPA. This is an important event for IMPA and our Members to gain great exposure with the General Assembly. Utility representatives and local elected officials - Mayors, Clerk Treasurers, and Council members – are encouraged to attend!
 - **January 14th** – Governor Holcomb to give the State of the State address

- **January 15th** – Chief Justice Loretta Rush to give the State of the Judiciary address
- **January 20th** – State Holiday for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day no session
- **January 28th** – House committee deadline
- **January 30th** - Senate committee deadline
- **January 30th** – 2nd Reading deadline for House bills
- **February 3rd** – 3rd Reading deadline for House bills
- **February 1st** – 2nd Reading deadline for Senate bills
- **February 4th** – 3rd Reading deadline for Senate bills

- ▲ The General Assembly will get back to business for the second half of the session on Monday February 10th.
- ▲ Legislators in both the House and Senate are limited as to how many pieces of legislation they can introduce during a short session. In the House, the limit is 5 bills per legislator and in the Senate, the limit is 10 bills.
- ▲ After the filing deadline yesterday (1/9), legislation is quickly becoming public and committees are meeting in earnest. The Track List will be adjusted accordingly in the coming days.



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Key Issues

- ▲ Key issues that the 2020 legislative session will focus on include:
 - Education – several priority bills are already moving
 - Health care costs
 - Continued efforts to combat the opioid crisis
 - Several initiatives tied to workforce, including one that focuses on careers in the utility industry
 - Raising the age for individuals to purchase tobacco and vaping products (in conjunction with the federal regulation that is now in effect) and penalties for retailers who violate that regulation
 - Potentially banning the use of cell phones while driving.
- ▲ Energy and utility-related matters will not dominate discussions this session. For IMPA and our municipal electric utilities, we will be watching all legislation for possible impact on our interests.
- ▲ The House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee will hold two committee hearings during the first half of the session, and the Senate Utilities Committee may also meet just twice. Some topics of interest for municipal utilities generally (not just electric) include: locating of underground facilities, rural broadband service, water and wastewater rates and charges, the extension of water and sewer mains, and finally a measure that addresses the liability of property owners in the event a tenant fails to pay their municipal utility bill (water, wastewater, gas, and/or electric; not sewer). This issue was addressed during the 2019 legislative session, and there is an effort this year to clarify what was approved during the last session.

- ▲ In addition to the issues mentioned above, we will keep tabs on matters related to local government, economic development, and the environment throughout the session.

State Legislative Retirement Watch

- ▲ Currently, there are 6 state legislators who will be hanging up their respective legislative cleats. 5 State Representatives have announced that they will not seek re-election in 2020, along with one state Senator.
 - **House Speaker Brian Bosma** (R-Indianapolis) – 34 years in the legislature
 - **Representative Woody Burton** (R-Greenwood) – 32 years in the legislature
 - **Representative Mara Candelaria Reardon** (D-Munster) – 12 years in the legislature
 - **Representative Dave Wolkins** (R-Winona Lake) – 32 years in the legislature
 - **Representative Ron Bacon** (R-Boonville) – 10 years in the legislature
 - **Senator Mark Stoops** (D-Bloomington) – 8 years in the legislature
- ▲ The sessions of the Indiana General Assembly are broadcast over the Internet. In order to access the daily activities of committees and all Floor activities, go to www.in.gov/iga.