



STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

January 18, 2019

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2019 Indiana General Assembly Week 2

- ▲ The second full week of the 2019 legislative session came to a close on Thursday. It was a busy week, as committees began to meet in earnest. To date, about 1,300 bills and joint resolutions have been introduced for consideration.
- ▲ Governor Holcomb presented his third State of the State address this past Tuesday evening, during which he outlined his legislative agenda. He remains committed to increasing teacher pay and education funding in general, workforce development, and hate crimes legislation.
- ▲ The State House will be closed on Monday, January 21st in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The General Assembly will get back to work on Tuesday.
- ▲ On the utility and energy fronts, several bills have been introduced that we are reviewing and will be watching closely. While electric industry issues will not dominate the session, there are bills of interest pertaining to water infrastructure, sewer and water connections through rights-of-way, telephone solicitation, and broadband development.
- ▲ **WE NEED FEEDBACK** from you on the first troublesome bill this session. **House Bill 1347** (Rep. Woody Burton – Greenwood) is legislation dealing with **municipal utilities (all inclusive)**. Please advise how this proposal could impact your local utility.
 - The intent of HB 1347 is to **prohibit** a municipality from holding a property owner (landlord) responsible for a renter's utility bill if the service is in the renter's name and is delinquent or otherwise unpaid.
 - Many municipalities currently have local ordinances in place stipulating that utility service can be in a renter's name; however, a property owner is still ultimately held liable for utility bill payments if the renter fails to pay their bill.

- This proposed legislation is very onerous for municipalities that have municipal water, wastewater, and/or electric utilities as it would eliminate an avenue to recover delinquent/unpaid accounts, thus contributing to the municipality's overall uncollectable debt.
- ▲ The Senate Utilities Committee met Thursday this week to consider Senate Bill 4, authored by Senator Ed Charbonneau (R-Valparaiso). SB 4 is the consensus water infrastructure improvement bill for the session. The bill passed out of committee unanimously. The House Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications Committee will have its first meeting next week.
- ▲ Several local government-related bills have been introduced, as well, that we will be keeping an eye on. These bills pertain to the perennial issue of annexation, the state board of accounts, and public works projects.

Indiana Municipal Power Agency 2019 Legislative Reception

Monday, January 28, 2019 from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Indiana Historical Society
450 W. Ohio St., Indianapolis

*heavy hors d'ouvres, cocktails & conversation for
Legislators, Municipal Electric Representatives, Local Officials, Spouses/Guests*

**RSVP by
January 23:**

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