



STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

March 15, 2019

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2019 Indiana General Assembly Week 10

- ▲ Week 10 of the 2019 legislative session is now complete. The Indiana General Assembly continued to chug along, with legislators in the midst of reviewing and making critical revisions to legislation that has already been approved by one chamber.
 - ▲ As numerous bills emerge from committees, the daily floor calendars will continue to grow in both chambers in terms of the volume of bills on Second and Third Reading.
 - ▲ We are in what could be called the “calm before the storm” phase of the process. Next week, expect activity to ramp up, with many more bills of interest scheduled for committee hearings.
 - ▲ Budget testimony began last week and continued this week. Increasing teacher pay across Indiana continues to be a very challenging issue. The Senate Appropriations Committee heard several hours of testimony this week from those in the education field, all urging for more state funds for schools and ultimately teachers. That committee is expected to spend the next three weeks holding hearings before advancing a revised budget to the full Senate. After that, House Bill 1001 will end up in conference committee where conferees will negotiate the final product.
- ▲ Also receiving a lot of attention this week in the House Ways and Means Committee was Senate Bill 7, legislation that would provide financial assistance to the Indianapolis Capital Improvements Board (CIB) for upgrades to the Indy Convention Center, Banker’s Life Fieldhouse, and Lucas Oil Stadium. SB 7 also provides language that would allow the CIB to move forward with efforts to locate and build a new facility for the Indy Eleven soccer team in Indianapolis, if they can get the local team to sign a commitment with a Major League Soccer (MLS) franchise. Much testimony was heard, but the bill was held.
 - ▲ Senate Bill 12, the bias crimes legislation, appears to be stalled for the time being. A philosophical difference of opinion between “the Third and Second Floor” of the State House has taken shape and could prevent a vote by the full House. What this means in legislative lingo is that legislators – mostly Republicans – and Governor Holcomb are not in agreement about how SB 12 should be crafted. The bill has not been scheduled yet for a hearing by the House Courts and Criminal Code Committee.



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- ▲ Next week, look for Senate Bill 535 (extraterritorial jurisdiction of municipalities) to be heard in the House Select Committee on Government Reduction, as well as several other economic development, education, and local government-related bills. Please see the Updated IMPA/Municipal Electric Tracking List for specific details on all bills we are watching.
- ▲ The House and Senate committees have until April 9th and 11th, respectively, to consider legislation in committee. The deadline for 2nd and 3rd Reading in both chambers will be April 15th and 16th, respectively. Then we go to the conference committee process where differences between the House and Senate will be worked out. There is much work left to be done before the legislature can adjourn Sine Die, potentially on Friday April 26th.
- ▲ On the utility front this week, the Senate Utilities Committee met and considered House Bills 1305 and 1470. HB 1305 provides for the imposition of a late fee if an owner of oil or gas interests fails to timely file the annual property schedule for gas and oil well assessments. The bill passed out of the committee.
- ▲ House Bill 1470 amends the Transmission, Distribution and Storage Improvement Charges (TDSIC) statute. This measure pertains to electric and gas utility infrastructure improvement projects and the regulatory process that public utilities (IOUs) must go through at the IURC for cost recovery. House Bill 1470 provides a new process under which the IURC would approve new TDSIC plans that are filed by utilities if certain specific conditions are met. Under the bill's provisions, if the IURC determines that the public utility's new projects or improvements are reasonable, the IURC shall approve the new projects or improvements and authorize TDSIC treatment for the new projects or improvements. At this time, IMPA's municipal electrics have no concerns with this legislation. HB 1470 passed the House, 74-19. The Senate committee heard testimony on this legislation, but did not vote on it this week. The vote will take place at a subsequent meeting.
- ▲ The House Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications Committee did not meet this week.
- ▲ As the legislative process continues, we will be keeping a keen eye out for any amendments or any other areas of concern to IMPA and our municipal electric members.