



STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

May 16, 2018

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General Interest

- ▲ The Indiana General Assembly convened for its one-day special session on Monday May 14, 2018. The purpose of the Special Session was to complete the unfinished legislative business of the regular session that concluded in chaotic fashion on March 14th.
- ▲ In order to accomplish a one-day session, several legislative rules needed to be suspended, as well as the Constitutional requirement that legislation must move through the process over the course of at least three separate days per chamber. Both the House and Senate Republicans hold super-majorities, so garnering that 2/3 vote to suspend the rules was not at issue.
- ▲ Subsequently, the legislature debated and approved 5 pieces of legislation, four of which contained language that would have been dealt with on the last night of the regular session had time not run out. The General Assembly approved bills dealing with school safety, state takeover of troubled school districts in Gary and Muncie, two bills that will allow the state to comply with federal tax reform, and a technical corrections bill that corrects any errors that occurred in legislation enacted during the regular 2018 session.

Legislative Leadership

- ▲ Senate Republicans met in Caucus following the conclusion of the Special Session to select a successor to current Senate President Pro Tem David Long, who will be resigning his seat after the November election. The Senate Republican Caucus voted to install Senators Rod Bray (R-Martinsville, current Majority Floor Leader) and Mark Messmer (R-Jasper) as President Pro Tem and Majority Floor Leader, respectively. Senator Bray's legislative district includes IMPA member communities Brooklyn and Bargersville. Senator Messmer's district includes IMPA member communities Jasper and Huntingburg, along with the municipal electric community of Boonville.
- ▲ A final, official Caucus vote will take place in November after the election.

2018 Interim Study Committees

- ▲ The Legislative Council, which is the governing arm of the IN General Assembly during the interim, met on Tuesday May 15th. This year, the Council is chaired by Speaker of the House Brian Bosma, with Senate President Pro Tem David Long serving as co-chair.



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- ▲ The most important item on the Legislative Council's agenda was the assignment of topics to the 2018 Interim Study Committees. Over 50 topics are assigned.
- ▲ Some of the topics approved for study this summer include: industrial hemp, current trends with respect to criminal behavior and sentencing, hate crimes, issues related to the IN Department of Child Services (DCS), several education-related matters, short term rentals (AirBnB), economic development, and medical marijuana. Additionally, there will be discussion during the interim related to sports wagering in light of the recent Supreme Court decision striking down a federal law that effectively banned states from legalizing sports wagering.
- ▲ On the utility and environmental fronts, the Interim Study Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications will meet to receive any and all reports that are required by law to be submitted to the committee, including the various annual reports from the IN Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) and the Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC). Additionally, the Committee will study the enforcement of the Indiana Telephone Solicitation Act, the regulation of automatic dialing machines and changes in technology as they relate to telephone solicitation and cybersecurity.
- ▲ The Interim Study Committee on Environmental Affairs was not assigned any specific topics pursuant to the Legislative Council resolution.
- ▲ Of additional interest, the Water Infrastructure Task Force will meet to look at water, wastewater/stormwater management, water quality and supply issues.
- ▲ The next step in the interim process will be for Leaders in both the House and Senate to assign legislators to each of the study committees. That will take place over the course of the next few weeks.
- ▲ With both the Republican and Democratic State Party Conventions in June, along with various other conferences taking place, most of the study committees will likely not get under way until later this summer, likely August and/or September.

For additional information on interim activities of the IN General Assembly, please go to www.iga.in.gov.