



March 6, 2015

A Few Important Bills to be Heard Next Week

We've just passed the halfway mark of the legislative session. This week was a slow week as bills were still being assigned to committee in the second house and committees are ramping up for the second half action. The IACT bill tracking list went from nearly 600 bills down to just over 200 bills. Our list diminished as we were able to remove all the dead bills that either didn't get hearing or didn't make it through the process in the first house. Now, the focus is on fine-tuning the bills that *are* moving, keeping those bills alive that are favorable, and working to defeat the negative bills. While the committee schedule still looks to be a light one for next week, there are a few important bills that have been scheduled for a hearing – SB 460 (the Nursing Home Moratorium bill) and SB 309 (the Electric Service Territory bill) and HB 1104 (the State Board of Accounts bill). Read more below about these bills and about a couple other top IACT issues. [Click here](#) to link to our mid-session Legislative Summary which contains an in-depth rundown of bills on our tracking list at half-time.

Also, don't forget to register for [IACT's Legislative Day](#) on March 16, and [Road Funding Day](#) on March 17.

Bill Which Places a Moratorium on New Nursing Home Construction Will Be Heard in the House Public Health Committee on Monday of Next Week

SB 460 Comprehensive Care Health Facilities (Pat Miller, R-Indianapolis; T. Brown, R-Crawfordsville)

Local economic development is in jeopardy should SB 460 become law. The bill provides that there be no new construction of nursing homes during a moratorium period. The bill places a moratorium on new comprehensive care beds between FY 2016 and FY 2018 (with certain exceptions) and prohibits the licensing of new comprehensive care facilities that do not have a certificate of occupancy by September 30, 2015. Representative Tim Brown is the House sponsor of this bill and it will be heard in the House Public Health Committee next week on Monday. IACT opposes this bill that hurts economic development and job creation. For more information from the alliance rallied against this bill, click on this link: <http://www.qualitylivingalliance.org/>

IACT Position: Oppose

Bill that Affects the 72 Municipalities that Provide Electric Service Will Be Heard on Wednesday of Next Week

SB 309 Electricity Suppliers' Service Territories (Crider, R-Greenfield; Koch, R-Bedford)

Next week on Wednesday, SB 309 will be heard in the House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications. IACT opposes the bill which would hamstring the 72 municipalities that own and operate an electric utility and puts the interests of the Rural Electric Membership Cooperatives and Investor Owned Utilities over those of the customer. The bill prohibits a municipal electric from offering electric service to a newly annexed area without a mutual agreement with the incumbent electric provider even if the customer requests being served by the municipality that may be able to provide more reliable and cost effective electricity. Follow [this link](#) for additional information from the Indiana Municipal Power Agency.

IACT Position: Oppose

State Board of Accounts Bill Scheduled for a Hearing on Tuesday

[HB 1104](#) Financial Examinations and Sherriff's Merit Board (Lehman, R-Fort Wayne; Head, R-Logansport)

HB 1104 is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee on Tuesday. The bill gives authority to the State Board of Accounts (SBOA) to conduct audits on a risk and need basis rather than on an annual basis. After much work done by IACT and others to improve the bill, it now defines "need" to include units that issue bonds, have continuing disclosure requirements and have federal grants. This definition is important to ensure cities and towns that need an annual audit are able to receive one under the new system. It also allows a unit who requests a GAAP-based audit to receive one as long as their records are presented accordingly. Finally, the bill provides a procedure for a public entity (other than a school corporation) under certain circumstances to have examinations performed by a certified public accountant instead of the SBOA.

Due to the shortage of staff at SBOA, the agency is asking for an audit fee increase from \$45 per auditor per day to \$175. This provision is contained in the budget bill, HB 1001. The plan is to keep the fee revenue in a separate fund to be used specifically for SBOA needs.

IACT Position: IACT Board of Directors voted to support the fee increase, as long as certain assurances for funding levels by the state and quality audit needs are met.

Annexation & Road Funding

Two other top issues that IACT continues to work on in the second half are annexation and road funding. SB 330, an unfavorable annexation bill that passed out of the Senate with considerable dissention (a 34-16 vote), is now in the hands of House sponsor Sharon Negele (R-Attica). IACT is working with House legislators to make improvements to the bill.

Road funding is another top initiative of IACT's and it all comes down to what is passed in the budget bill, HB 1001. When HB 1001 left the House, it did not include any new funding for local roads and streets. We hope to work in the Senate Appropriations Committee toward an increase in road funding for locals. Following the IACT Legislative Day on March 16, there will be a Road Funding Day at the statehouse on March 17 where a coalition of partners are gathering to promote increased road funding for locals. Road Funding Day is a free event. To register, [click here](#).

Register for Statehouse Road Funding Day on March 17



IACT is partnering with several other associations to continue to educate lawmakers on the need to bridge the road-funding gap experienced by cities and towns by holding a Road Funding Day at the Statehouse on March 17. IACT's Legislative Day is scheduled the day before, so IACT is encouraging members to stay the night in Indianapolis in order to join IACT and our partners on March 17.

2015 Legislative Dates & Deadlines

Thursday, April 9

Deadline for committee reports in second house

Tuesday, April 14

2nd Read deadline in second house

Wednesday, April 15

3rd Reading deadline in second house and concurrence deadline for conference committee reports

Wednesday, April 29

Last day of session

