



Indiana Association of
Cities and Towns

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF CITIES AND TOWNS LEGISLATIVE E-NEWSLETTER



APRIL 19, 2013

The *Legislative Summary* is a weekly e-newsletter intended to provide you with a sampling of important bills being debated at the Statehouse. For additional information about the legislative session, continue monitoring [IACT's Legislative webpage](#), or contact us directly at (317) 237-6200.



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In this Newsletter

- [IN Action This Week](#): Top 5 Things to Know
- [IN Local Roads & Streets Initiative](#): IACT Provides Testimony in Conference Committee on Budget
- [IN Bills of Concern](#): Two Moratoriums Eroding Home Rule Authority Headed to Governor's Office
- [IN Legislative Initiatives](#): Food and Beverage Tax Initiative Headed to Governor's Office
- [IN Other Bills](#): Bill Which Allows Excess Utility Funds to be Used for Economic Development is Narrowed – Awaits Conference Committee
- [IN Announcements](#): IACT Legislative Wrap-Up Webinar

IN Action This Week: Top 5 Things to Know

1. House Concurs with IACT Initiative: SB 496 - Control of Ephedrine and Pseudoephedrine
2. Budget Bill Conference Committee Begins
3. House Concurs with HB 1313 Bill Restricting Rental Inspections
4. SB 285 Bill Limiting Annexation Powers of Municipalities Heard In Conference Committee
5. HB 1307 Bill That Undermines Rights Of Municipalities To Take Back Control Of Their Utilities Heads To Conference Committee

For questions or information on legislation, please contact our Legislative Team or any [IACT Staff Member](#).



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IN Local Roads & Streets Initiative: Increased Funding a Top Priority!

IACT Provides Testimony in Conference Committee on Budget

[HB 1001](#) – Biennial Budget (Rep. Brown, R-Crawfordsville; Sen. Kenley, R-Noblesville)

On April 17, 2013 a conference committee was held in order to rectify the differences between the House and Senate versions of the budget. The conference committee recessed without scheduling a date to reconvene. Testimony was limited to the differences in the two budget versions and IACT hit on three main points in favor of the House budget because it provides more road funding in a shorter period of time without strings attached.

First, the House budget immediately removes non-transportation needs from the Motor Vehicle Highway Account (MVHA) while the Senate phases out these costs. Second, the House budget allocates 1.5% of Sales tax to MVHA while the Senate allocates 1% of the Sales tax. Third, the House budget version provides cities and towns with an additional \$35.7 M in FY 2014 and \$37.2 M in FY 2015 while the Senate version allocates \$12.2 M in FY 2014 and \$30.4 M in FY 2015.

IACT Position: Support House Budget

New Flexible Road Funding Program Awaiting Governor's Signature

[HB 1067](#) – Federal Fund Exchange Program (Rep. Cherry, R-Greenfield; Sen. Wyss, R-Fort Wayne)

On April 17, 2013 the House sent HB 1067 to the Governor with a concurrence vote of 87-0. HB 1067 establishes the federal fund exchange program to allow a county, city or town that receives funds from the Federal Surface Transportation Program to exchange the federal funds at a rate of not less than \$0.75 of state funds for each \$1 of federal funds for capital projects. The Department of Transportation is charged with administrating the program and the municipality is still required to provide matching funds of 10% of the project cost.

IACT Position: Support

Conference Committee Held

[HB 1324](#) – Motor Fuels (Rep. Frye, R-Greensburg; Sen. Eckerty, R-Yorktown)

A dissent was filed on HB 1324 and on April 18, 2013, a conference committee was held. Although there was opposition to the local road impact fee, the testimony held little weight with the conference committee members. The committee recessed without a scheduled date for return.

HB1324 provides for the imposition of the motor carrier fuel tax and surtax by imposing the existing rates on the diesel or gasoline gallon equivalents of the various forms of natural gas sold. The funds generated from this tax and surtax will be distributed to the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund among others. Local units may receive up to \$1.3 M in FY 2014 and \$1 M in FY 2015 in additional transportation revenues from the bill through the MVH and Highway Road and Street Fund.

The bill also contains a Local Road Impact Fee, which places a fee on electric vehicles that would be collected during the registration process with the BMV. It is estimated that this fee will generate approximately \$1 M in FY 2014 and \$1.5 M in FY 2015, with generated revenues being deposited into the Local Road and Street Account.

IACT Position: Support

Bill to Bring Indiana Law in Compliance to Maintain Federal Road Funding in Conference Committee

[HB 1579](#) – Open Container Laws (Rep. Smaltz, R-Auburn; Sen. Wyss, R-Fort Wayne)

The House dissented HB 1579 on and a conference committee was held on April 18, 2013.

If passed, HB 1579 would bring Indiana Code in line with federal statutes in order for Indiana to maintain \$40 million in annual highway funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The bill specifies the number of hours of community service a person convicted of operating a vehicle while intoxicated must perform are based on an eight hour day and an average month consisting of 22 workdays.

IACT Position: Support

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

IN Bills of Concern

Two Moratoriums Eroding Home Rule Authority Headed to Governor's Office

[HB 1313](#) – Regulation of Residential Landlords, Builders, and Remodelers (Rep. Speedy, R-Indianapolis; Sen. Holdman, R-Markle)

On April 18, 2013, the House barely concurred on HB 1313 with a final vote of 51-32. The bill is headed to the Governor's office for his signature. Representatives McNamara, Kubacki, Braun, Clere, Mahan, Ziemke all chose to abstain from voting on this bill.

HB 1313 has two different moratoriums on cities and towns adopting certain ordinances or other requirements. The first is a one-year moratorium on a political subdivision from adopting a regulation relating to landlord/tenant relations, rental agreements, or real property subject to rental agreements that: (1) requires an owner or landlord to be licensed or to obtain a permit from the political subdivision to lease a rental unit; (2) requires an owner or landlord to enroll or participate in a class or government program as a condition for leasing a rental unit; or (3) imposes or increases a fee or other assessment for inspection of a rental unit, registration of an owner, landlord, or rental unit, or for any other purpose relating to landlord and tenant relations, rental agreements, or real property subject to a rental agreement. Because of ambiguous drafting in the legislation, it is unclear whether or not a city or town can impose a uniform fee such as a trash collection fee and have it apply to rental property. IACT will continue our efforts to clarify this language.

The second is a two-year moratorium on an ordinance or other requirement that would require a builder or remodeler to be licensed, certified, permitted, registered, or listed by the political subdivision as a condition to the builder or remodeler constructing or remodeling a residential dwelling. While it provides that a political subdivision is not prohibited from licensing, permitting, or registering specific trades or issuing permits and approvals that regulate the use, planning, and development of property, this is still an unjustified intrusion on home rule authority.

IACT Position: Oppose

Extraterritorial Water/Sewer Rates Bill Would Now Make it Nearly Impossible for a Municipality to Buy Back its Water or Sewer Utility

[HB 1307](#) Extraterritorial Utility Rates and Charges (Braun, R-Zionsville; Merritt, R-Indianapolis)

An amendment added to HB 1307 late in the session moved the bill to the top of IACT's "concerned" list. The amendment was added at the request of Indiana American Water Company and it would make it nearly impossible for a municipality to buy-back a water or sewer utility from a private company unless the company was willing to sell. (Current law provides that a city or town can always take back the utility through condemnation). Under this bill, a company must be found by the IURC to be out of compliance in order for an unwilling company to be sold back to the municipality. In the long term, this provision is very concerning. Water is the next gold and without the ability to protect it and control it, there could be big problems ahead.

In addition, HB 1307 builds on last year's HEA 1126. Under that law, users of a municipal water utility who live outside of the municipal boundaries to petition the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission for a review of their rates in charges when their rates and charges are 15% or greater than what inside customers pay. The opportunity to petition occurs at the time when the municipality is proposing a rate increase. Under HB 1307, however, there is a six month window starting in July for the outside users of water *and* sewer to petition the IURC for a review of rates and charges when the rates and charges 50% or more than what inside customers pay. The opportunity to petition is regardless of whether there is a rate increase proposal by the municipality. In the Senate Utilities Committee, an amendment was added which would allow extraterritorial customers to compare their rates to "anywhere" in the municipality. This amendment is aimed at a specific situation in Whitestown where the in-town users pay differing rates based on whether the user is in the northern district or southern district.

Another amendment was added to the bill which is a positive step. It requires the petitioner to first petition at the municipal level before it can petition the IURC. At the local level, it must be verified that the outside users do indeed have extraterritorial rates that are 50% or above.

The conference committee is scheduled on this bill for Monday at 11:00.

IACT Position: Opposed

Gaming Bill Headed to Conference Committee

[SB 528](#) – Gaming (Sen. Boots, R-Crawfordsville; Rep. Davis, R-Portland)

A conference committee on SB 528 has been scheduled for April 22, 2013 in order to iron out the changes made in the House. Rep. Davis is a conferee on the bill so it is unlikely that any provisions seen as an expansion of gaming will make it back into this bill but it is possible they could end up in another bill.

SB 528 provides for (1) no tax on \$2 M free play (per casino); (2) admissions tax to become 3.45% supplemental wagering tax; (3) gaming investment tax credit to be capped at \$40 M (tax credit equals 10% of the qualified capital project); and (4) the requirement that locals receiving funds from a casino to post the agreement on the transparency portal. Most importantly, the guaranteed \$33 M spread amongst municipalities is still included in the bill. This agreement dates back to 2002.

IACT Position: Neutral

Bill Would Require Redevelopment Commissions to Have Two New Voting Members Appointed by School Corporations

[SB 494](#) State and Local Taxation (Hershman, R-Buck Creek; Brown, R-Crawfordsville)

An amendment was added to SB 494 in the House which would require two new voting members on redevelopment commissions that are appointed by school corporations starting December 31, 2013. IACT opposes this measure. A dissent has been filed on the bill and it awaits conference committee action.

IACT Position: Oppose RDC appointment change

Bill Gives All Municipalities Access to Insurance Proceeds for Structures Damaged by Fire or Explosion

[SB 169](#) Insurance Proceeds Set Aside

SB 169 applies the law concerning insurance proceeds escrow deposits to all cities and towns, phased in over three years. (Current law applies only to first and second class cities.) It provides for insurer notice to a municipality of an insurance claim filed for structure damage caused by fire or explosion and provides for municipality notice to an insurer of estimated or actual costs to the municipality for demolition or rehabilitation of the structure under the unsafe building law. SB 169 requires a deposit of a certain amount of available insurance proceeds to an escrow account. Repeals: (1) a definition made obsolete by the bill; and (2) current notice requirements that apply to Gary and Hammond.

An amendment was added to the bill in the House Insurance Committee which requires municipalities that want to participate in the program to register with the state fire marshal and pay a \$100 fee to the state! It also sets limitations for the availability of the funds. This week, the bill was heard in conference committee and IACT objected to the \$100 annual fee. Legislators agreed to evaluate the possibility of a one-time \$100 fee and we are waiting to see if that change happens.

IACT Position: Support the Concept, Oppose Limitations and Fee

Two Additional Annexation Bills Proposed to Go Into SB 285

[SB 285](#) Waiver of the Right to Remonstrate Against Annexation (Buck, R-Kokomo; Karickhoff, R-Kokomo)

This week, SB 285 was heard in conference committee. Senator Buck, the bill's author, is attempting to amend SB 376 (which limits all annexations to 15% of assessed value) and SB 284 (which says that a town does not have to seek city consent to annex within three miles of the city) into the bill.

The original language in SB 285 requires that information be clear in the chain of title to a property that an annexation waiver exists. IACT supported the bill as it will provide greater transparency to property owners that an annexation waiver agreement is in place and applies to the property. However, IACT is not supportive of the other two bills being amended into this one.

IACT Position: Support

Wholesale Sewer Contract Disputes and Extra-Territorial Compact Fees – Conference Committee Will Meet on Monday

[SB 385](#) – Regional Sewer Districts (Charbonneau, R-Valparaiso; Wolkins, R-Winona Lake)

SB 385 allows a purchaser of wholesale sewage service to petition the IURC for the settlement of a dispute (currently, going to court is the only option). It also provides that certain fees shall be deposited into the public utility fund instead of being deposited with the state treasury. Further, it provides that a contract for the construction of a municipal sewage works may not require certain landowners to waive the right to remonstrate against annexation by the municipality. Two amendments were added to the bill in the House dealing with two specific municipal disputes – one involving Ft. Wayne and Hometown and the other involving Elkhart. We believe that the concerns about these specific areas have been allayed for now and we are hopeful that the amended language will be removed in the conference committee report. The conference committee on SB 385 will be held on Monday at 10:00.

IACT Position: Opposed

Changes Sought for Door-to-door Solicitation Provision Involving Cable Companies
[SB 235](#) Video Service Providers (Holdman, R-Markle; Koch, R-Bedford)

An amendment was adopted in the House Utilities Committee to SB 235 without the opportunity for IACT to testify. The amendment was sought by the Indiana Cable Association and it states that cable companies that do door-to-door direct sales marketing are exempt from any local peddler ordinance. Rather, the cable companies would be regulated by the IURC. IACT is opposed to this provision. Senator Holdman and Representative Koch have agreed to work further on the bill in conference committee. IACT is currently in negotiations to reach a compromise. The bill is scheduled for conference committee on Tuesday morning.

IACT Position: Oppose the Peddler Ordinance Pre-emption Language

Bill Changes Property Tax Assessment Rules Which Result in \$17 Million Loss State Wide
[HB 1544](#) Various Tax Matters (Turner, R-Cicero; Hershman, R-Buck Creek)

SB 1544 was heard in conference committee this week. It still contains a provision which changes the assessment rules on rental housing. Common areas for these properties are currently capped at 3% while the other portions of the property are capped at 2%. This bill makes a change so that the common areas are capped at 2% as well. This would include swimming pools, club houses, parking lots, etc. The change results in a \$17 million loss in property tax revenue statewide.

IACT Position: Oppose assessment change

House Changes are Accepted in the Senate to Reorganization Bill
[SB 343](#) Local Government Reorganization (Head, R-Logansport; Richardson, R-Noblesville)

SB 343 is a lengthy bill that makes several changes to the government modernization statute. One portion of the bill that is concerning to IACT deals with the vote tallies for a proposed reorganization. For instance, the bill requires separate voting blocks for a city – county merger where the citizens in the unincorporated area vote separately from those in the incorporated area. IACT testified that this should be left up to local decision. The Senate concurred with the House changes this week by a 48-1 vote.

IACT Position: Oppose Vote Tally Provision

Land Bank, Tax Sale and Abandoned Housing Study Committee Bill on Its Way to the Governor
[HB 1317](#) Land Banks (Clere, R-New Albany; Holdman, R-Markle)

HB 1317 calls for an interim study on this issue of land banks. The bill was amended in the Senate Local Government Committee to include a study of the tax sale process and abandoned homes. The bill has been signed by both House and Senate leaders and is on its way to the Governor.

IACT Position: Support

Kenley Redevelopment Bill May or May Not be Revived
[SB 325](#) Redevelopment Commissions and Authorities (Kenley, R-Noblesville; Cherry, R-Greenfield)

For the past couple of years, Senator Kenley has filed a bill dealing with redevelopment commission powers. It has been stopped in the House each time. SB 325 did not receive a hearing in the House Government and Regulatory Reform Committee. While IACT's Legislative Committee officially voted to oppose the bill, we had worked on compromise language at Senator Kenley's request. The bill could perhaps be revived in a conference committee report, but at this point, we think it is unlikely.

IACT Position: Opposed, but Willing to Compromise

Bill Limits Operating Balances in Debt Service Funds

[SB 517](#) Redevelopment Commissions and Authorities (P. Miller, R-Brownsburg; Huston, R-Fishers)

A provision in SB 517 prohibits local units of government from keeping more than 25% of its annual debt service payment in a debt service reserve account for debt incurred after January 1, 2009. Traditionally, local units keep a 50% reserve to protect against a cash flow shortage – enough money to make one bi-annual payment. IACT is opposed to this limitation because local units often experience delays in assessment and property tax collection. Not having enough money for one extra payment would require local units to issue tax anticipation notes or borrow from other funds.

IACT Position: Opposed to debt service balance limitations

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

IN Legislative Initiatives

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IACT Initiative Headed to Governor's Office

[HB 1070](#) – Local Food and Beverage Tax (Rep. Baird, R-Greencastle; Sen. Bray, R-Martinsville)

On April 16, 2013 the House voted to concur on HB 1070 with a final vote of 52-42. This IACT initiative is headed to the Governor's office to wait for his signature.

HB 1070 authorizes the Cloverdale town council to adopt a 1% Food and Beverage Tax on taxable food and beverage transactions in the town that could go into effect as early as September 1, 2013. All funds collected must go into a separate account and may only be spent on the financing, construction, operation, maintenance, and debt service of sanitary sewers or wastewater treatment facilities, drainage or flood control facilities and water treatment, storage, or distribution facilities. HB 1070 also authorizes the town of Fishers to adopt a 1% Food and Beverage Tax and requires the revenue to be spent to reduce the town's property tax levy or on economic development.

IACT Position: Support

IACT Initiative Headed to the Governor's Office for Signature

[SB 365](#) – Utility Facility Relocation (Sen. Crider, R-Greenfield; Rep. Koch, R-Bedord)

SB 365 authorizes a unit of local government to enter into an agreement with a utility concerning the relocation of the utility's facilities for a major highway, street, or road project undertaken by the local unit. The agreement must include a date for relocation and conditions under which the utility is excused from meeting the date, including a force majeure clause. Since this bill was amended in the second house, it is eligible for conference committee.

This IACT initiative is waiting for the Governor's signature.

IACT Position: Support

IACI Initiative Waiting for Governor's Signature

[SB 496](#) – Regulation of Ephedrine and Pseudoephedrine (Sen. Yoder, R-Middlebury; Rep. McMillin, R-Brookville)

On April 16, 2013 the House sent this IACT initiative to the Governor's office with a concurrence vote of 43-5. This bill prohibits a pharmacy/retailer from selling and an individual from purchasing more than 61.2 grams of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine in a 365-day period. It also prohibits a person convicted of certain offenses involving methamphetamine from possessing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or phenylpropanolamine within seven years of the person's conviction, unless dispensed under a prescription.

IACI Position: Support

Abandoned Property Awaits Concurrence Vote in the Senate

[SB 433](#) Abandoned Property (Paul, R-Richmond; Hamm, R-Richmond)

As it came from the Senate, SB 433 establishes a procedure to permit a county executive to dispose of certain properties that did not sell at the tax sale to a person able to repair and maintain the properties. It also provides that before the county executive may transfer properties that did not sell at a tax sale to a nonprofit corporation, an abutting property owner, or a person satisfactorily able to repair and maintain the property, a person with a substantial interest in the property must be given an opportunity to redeem the property. It also requires certain notices concerning demolition and removal under the unsafe building law be served on each person with a known or recorded substantial property interest and authorizes a municipality or county to bring an action to collect unpaid expenses relating to the abatement of high weeds and grass. (Under current law, the municipality or county may obtain only a lien on the property containing the high weeds and grass.)

Rep. John Price of Greenwood assisted IACT in getting an amendment adopted to the bill in the House Local Government Committee which would facilitate communication between cities and towns and counties regarding abandoned/vacant properties eligible for tax sale. The amendment would also allow a city or town to access the courts in order to deem a property as abandoned. The bill awaits a concurrence vote in the Senate.

IACI Position: Support

LOIT Distribution – Study Committee is Requested

[SB 544](#) State and Local Tax Administration (Hershman, R-Buck Creek; Brown, R-Crawfordsville)

One of IACT's legislative initiatives is to insure that locals are getting their full distribution of local option income taxes. Due to the processes at the Indiana Department of Revenue, locals are only receiving distributions based on tax returns filed. The state is keeping the local portion from those taxpayers who don't file returns. We are told that in order to rectify the problem, the Department must buy a costly computer system. IACT is urging the state to rectify this problem by taking any necessary steps.

An amendment was added in the House Ways and Means Committee added an amendment to the bill which asks the Legislative Council to assign the topic of "imposition, administration and distribution" of local income taxes to an interim study committee. The Senate has dissented with the House changes and the bill awaits conference committee action.

IACI Position: Support greater accountability of LOIT revenues

PSAPs

HB 1304 dealing with Public Service Answer Points did not get a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee. IACT may find it possible to have language added to another bill to address some needed clarifications.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

IN Other Bills

Bill Which Allows Excess Utility Funds to be Used for Economic Development is Narrowed – Awaits Conference Committee

[SB 349](#) Utilities; Economic Development (Head, R-Logansport; Friend, R-Macy)

SB 349 allows a local unit to donate funds from the municipally owned utility's surplus earnings to a local economic development organization, as long as certain obligations of the municipally owned utility are met before the donation is made. This genesis of this bill was the City of Peru. There, the city wanted to use surplus utility funds to reapply a logo to their water tower after the tower had been repainted. An amendment was added to the bill which states that the funds given to the local economic development organization can only be used for maintenance of existing infrastructure. The bill also allows investor-owned public utility to add an improvement charge for sewer service if the IURC grants approval. The Senate dissented with the House changes and the bill awaits conference committee action.

IACT Position: Neutral

Clerk-Treasurers' Bill is On its Way to the Governor

[HB 1145](#) Various Local Government Matters (Candelaria-Reardon, D-Hammond; Paul, R-Richmond)

SB 1145 contains several provisions that were requested by the municipal Clerk-Treasurers and it passed out of the Senate Local Government Committee this week. The bill allows a political subdivision to charge a reasonable fee for convenience, not to exceed \$3, when accepting a credit card or bank card for payments. It provides that unused and unencumbered funds from any fiscal year and certain specified sources may be transferred to a political subdivision's rainy day fund at any time. It also provides that unobligated cash balances from any fiscal year and sources not specified by statute may be transferred to the rainy day fund if the amount of the transfer is specified in an ordinance or resolution and the transfer is not more than 10% of the political subdivision's annual budget. It also allows towns to publish any of its ordinances in book or pamphlet and no other publication is required in order for the ordinance to take effect (cities can already do this.) In addition, an amendment was added to the bill in committee which allows more time for a redevelopment commission to file its annual report with the DLGF – until March 15 of each year (current law requires the report to be filed within 30 days after the close of the calendar year.). IACT was able to get an additional amendment put into the bill on second reading which provides that the redevelopment commission “or their designee” can submit the report to the DLGF on the Gateway system. The bill has been signed by both House and Senate leaders and is on its way to the Governor.

Extraterritorial Water/Sewer Rates Passes 77-16

[HB 1137](#) IURC Review of Extraterritorial Water Rates (Frizzell, R-Indianapolis; Merritt, R-Indianapolis)

Last year, HEA 1126 passed into law which allowed users of a municipal water utility who live outside of the municipal boundaries to petition the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission for a review of their rates in charges when their rates and charges are 15% or greater than what inside customers pay. The IURC assured us last year that 120 days was sufficient time for them to review the rates and charges. Under HB 1137, however, the IURC is afforded 60 extra days to make the review if there is “good cause.”

IACT has been opposed to this provision unless the 60 days are granted under the condition that all parties to the proceeding agree. Delays could force the municipality to have to rebid a project, push the project into the next construction season and cost the ratepayers more money.

HB 1137 was amended in the Senate to make sure that all parties were required to agree to the 60 day extension of time. With this amendment, IACT no longer opposes the bill. We are neutral. The Senate changes were accepted in the House by a 77-16 vote this week.

IACT Position: Neutral

Mass Transit Headed to Conference Committee

[HB 1011](#) – Public Mass Transportation (Rep. Torr, R-Carmel; Sen. Miller, R-Avon)

A dissent to the changes made in the Senate on HB 1011 was filed on April 14, 2013 but a conference committee has yet to be scheduled. Senators Patricia Miller and Breaux are the Senate conferees and Representatives Torr and Pryor are the House conferees.

As currently written, HB 1011 establishes a 16 member Central Indiana Transit Study Committee. The bill requires the Committee to report to the Legislative Council before December 15, 2013, concerning specified transportation issues.

The bill also precludes ten counties from entering into interlocal cooperation agreements under which all of the counties participate in or are eligible to participate in a joint district or entity to provide public transportation services throughout those counties. However, it does not prohibit interlocal cooperation agreement to provide transportation services that existed prior to passage of the bill for the affected counties. It also prohibits certain counties and municipalities in those counties from establishing a new regional transportation authority or becoming a member of an existing regional transportation authority. The affected counties are as follows: (1) Boone; (2) Delaware; (3) Hamilton; (4) Hancock; (5) Hendricks; (6) Johnson; (7) Madison; (8) Marion; (9) Morgan; and (10) Shelby. This moratorium expires on March 15, 2014.

IACT Position: Support

Late Fees For Handicapped Parking And Seat Belt Tickets Headed to Governor

[HB 1124](#) - City and town court late payment fees (Mahan, R-Hartford City; Holdman, R-Markle)

On April 17, 2013 the House voted to concur on HB 1124 with a final vote of 83-0. It is now headed to the Governor's office for the final stage in the legislative process.

Representative Kevin Mahan sponsored HB 1124 at the request of city and town court judges. The State Board of Accounts had ruled that since Class D Infractions (including seat belt violations) and handicapped parking violations did not assess court costs but only a fine, then the city and town courts could not assess late fees if fines for violation were not paid promptly. The bill allowing late fees passed the House 99-0. In the Senate it was discovered that Circuit and Superior Courts could not collect the late fees unless the language was amended. The Senate Judiciary amended the bill so all of the courts could assess late fees when warranted for seat belt and handicapped violations and passed to the floor 7-0. This week the Senate passed the bill 35-15.

IACT Position: Support

Restructuring of a Consolidated City's Origination Headed to Conference Committee

[SB 621](#) – Local Government Issues (Sen. R. Michael Young, R-Milltown; Rep. Speedy, R-Indianapolis)

[SB 621](#) makes numerous changes to the organization and structure of a consolidated city's government. On April 17, House and Senate Conferees debated and took public testimony for over 6 hours on the potential impacts the legislation will have on Marion County. No finalized language has been presented.

The bill supporters are contemplating eliminating all four at-large Indianapolis Council Member positions; along with transferring the two appointments made to Metropolitan Development Commission by the Marion County Commissioners to the Mayor's Office (giving the Commissioner 0 appointments, the Mayor 6 appointments, and the City Council 3). Proposed changes would also require absentee ballots in Marion, Lake, and Allen counties to be counted at a central location unless the county election board unanimously approves to count the votes at precinct locations. Also, the bill would create the Department of Public Safety and its Director (appointed by the Mayor) would oversee the Marion County Sheriff's Office.

IACT Position: Neutral

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

IN Announcements



**Now accepting IACT Award Nominations!
Nominate a Great Person or Project by June 14th.**
[Download Nomination Form.](#)

**Community Achievement and Local Government Cooperation Award Winners will be featured in a video presentation at the Awards Luncheon during the 2013 IACT Annual Conference & Exhibition to be held in Indianapolis October 6-8.*



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2013 IACT Legislative Team

IACT Legislative Wrap-Up Webinar

Tuesday, May 12, 2013

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. EST

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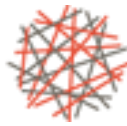
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