



aim
Accelerate Indiana
Municipalities

2025 STATEHOUSE REPORT

Session Overview

The 2025 legislative session came on the heels of the election of Governor Mike Braun and was framed by his legislative priorities: property tax reform, health care costs, road funding, and school choice. This session also saw the passage of the state's biennial budget which did not have the exceptional revenue growth that characterized the last two state budgets. Significant cuts and reprioritization of state revenue were required to balance this budget.

Property tax reform was Governor Braun's top priority, and it manifested itself in SEA 1. The Governor's introduced version of this bill would have been the most significant property tax reduction since the property tax caps of 2008 and would have been even more significant over time. Through session-long negotiations and advocacy from local government leaders, the final version of SEA 1 was still a significant property tax reduction. The vast majority of the property tax relief will be phased in over time and will be primarily for homeowners.

SEA 1 also included a total overhaul of the local income tax (LIT) statute moving it from a county-wide rate to a rate that can vary by municipality and allows some larger municipalities to adopt their own LIT rate. The new structure will be effective in 2028 and is creating uncertainty for local government planning and budgeting. Improving and clarifying this new process will be a top Aim legislative agenda item over the next two years prior to its implementation to ensure LIT distribution is fair and significant enough to overcome some of the property tax cuts in SEA 1. A full summary of SEA 1 can be found on page 45.

HEA 1001 is the state's biennial budget. Due to revenue constraints, several programs that have been beneficial to municipalities were not included in the budget this year, including READI and Next Level Trails. The local health department funding that was added just two years ago was also reduced by around 60%. Many other smaller agency programs are also in question due to cuts to programmatic funding for many state agencies. The budget included increases to all tobacco taxes and 5% cuts nearly across the board just to maintain balance, so many discretionary programs saw significant funding decreases or elimination.

Road funding was also a significant conversation during this session. HEA 1461 modifies the Community Crossings Matching Grant Program (CCMG) significantly. It continues the existing program with reduced match requirements for smaller communities while allowing larger communities to opt into an automatic CCMG distribution if they adopt a local wheel tax. This bill also continues the conversation around the possibility of tolling Indiana's interstates in order to make our state road funding sustainable into the future with declining gas tax revenue.

Several of Aim's operational initiatives were considered this session and many were successful:

HEA 1477 responds to our members' feedback by giving them more tools to deal with mobile home park owners that are not paying their water bills without resorting to shutting off water to the entirety of the mobile home park. It also makes some clarifications to the zoning laws for mobile and manufactured homes.

HEA 1587 adds new options for billing private insurance for mobile integrated healthcare programs to increase the financial viability of these programs and increase the amount of health care available in our communities, especially for seniors in rural areas.

Annexation was discussed during this legislative session, with proposals to eliminate municipally-initiated annexation and other proposals to allow for more non-contiguous annexations for housing or economic development projects and providing easier processes for collecting approvals during voluntary annexations. The ideas were wide-ranging and Aim attempted to make compromises with all of the stakeholders but ultimately no significant changes to the annexation statute were made. Moving forward, Aim will continue advocating for annexation to be a valuable municipal tool for growth and development.

In this Statehouse Report, you will find the collection of new laws that have municipal importance or impact. Most of the laws go into effect on July 1, 2025. However, some laws have various effective dates, including retroactivity and upon passage. To view the legislation showing the effective dates, click on the link with the bill number and title. This will take you to information for that bill on the Indiana General Assembly’s website, iga.in.gov.

This year’s report is organized in bill number order, and each bill includes a list of the policy areas to help you quickly identify the topic(s) it addresses. In the appendix, you’ll find an index listing each policy area with the corresponding bills grouped together.

We hope you will find the 2025 Statehouse Report to be a useful tool in learning about the multitude of new laws that were adopted this year. As always, if you have questions about any piece of legislation or current law, contact a member of the Aim legislative team or Aim legal counsel for assistance.

We appreciate your input throughout the session and thank you for keeping your legislators informed about municipal matters that are important to you and your community!

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HEA 1001, P.L. 213 – STATE BUDGET

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Sponsor: Sen. Ryan Mishler (R-Mishawaka)

Policy Areas: Administration, Community and Economic Development, Environmental, Healthy Communities, Municipal Finance, and Public Safety

Aim Comments

Indiana's biennial budget was tighter this year than in years past. Several programs that have become staples for municipalities were either cut or significantly reduced in this budget. There was no additional funding for READI or Next Level Trails. The funding for local health departments was reduced by 60%. Several agencies had their programmatic funding cut, meaning other programs like Main Street funding and other placemaking grants are now in question. The IEDC also had several significant cuts in addition to requiring the state budget committee to review more of their expenditures. The Innovation Development District (IDD) statute, used to create LEAP (define), was also adjusted to provide more oversight from the state budget committee and require all subsequent districts to have approval from local governments in the area.

Most of the capital projects in the originally proposed budget were cut and can only be approved if the funding is available and most line items received a cut of at least 5%. Only K-12 tuition support saw a 2% increase and choice scholarships were extended to all students starting in FY 27. It was, overall, a challenging budget for new spending priorities.

The TrustIN program was also adjusted in the budget bill, removing the State Treasurer as the sole governing authority over the program and instead placing it under a seven-member board consisting of the treasurer, the director of the Department of Insurance, and five other professionals with experience in banking or local government finance appointed by the governor or the legislature.

Summary of Provisions

- Appropriates money for capital expenditures, the operation of the state, K-12 and higher education, the delivery of Medicaid and other services, and various other distributions and purposes.
- Provides that the annual salary of the members of the general assembly shall not be increased during the biennium beginning July 1, 2025.
- Extends the review, analysis, and evaluation of tax incentives by the legislative services agency through 2030.
- Requires the legislative services agency to perform a fiscal impact analysis for each executive order issued by the governor under the emergency management and disaster law.
- Requires state officials to report to the budget committee expenses and funding used for trips taken in their official capacity.
- Provides that if the budget director determines at any time that a state agency can perform the agency's statutory obligations with less than the amount appropriated, the budget director shall, with the approval of the governor, and after notice to the state agency, reduce the amount or amounts allotted or to be allotted.
- Requires the budget director to withhold not less than 5% of any appropriation to a state agency to be used for salaries or other wages for state agency employees or general operating expenses of the state agency.
- Repeals the governor's workforce cabinet.
- Requires the department of natural resources (not the Indiana department of veterans' affairs under current law) to provide staff support to the Indiana semiquincentennial commission and repeals provisions requiring certain meetings and events of the commission to be held at the World War Memorial in Indianapolis.
- Removes a requirement to include certain services in a lease between the Indiana department of administration and the Indiana historical society for use of a building.
- Makes an appropriation from the Pokagon Band Tribal-state compact fund to the Midwest continental divide commission fund.
- Provides that a price preference for certain businesses applies to any proposal, contract, project, or agreement of the Indiana department of transportation, including state highway contracts, to the extent that the bid does not exceed the estimated cost of the project.

- Provides that the Indiana department of administration has sole control and jurisdiction over the policies governing and the usage of the Beth Bowen Meditation Room in the state capitol building.
- Exempts the Indiana board of tax review from requirements concerning live transmissions of meetings.
- Requires the department of state revenue to establish an amnesty program for taxpayers who have an unpaid tax liability for a listed tax that was due and payable before January 1, 2023.
- Specifies penalties for the underpayment of certain estimated taxes for pass through entities.
- Increases the amount of the public utility fee from 0.15% to 0.175% of the public utility's annual gross intrastate operating revenue and transfers the public utility fee revenue and certain payments to the state general fund (not the public utility fund under current law).
- Requires termination of the compact related to the establishment of the Chicago–Gary Regional Airport Authority.
- Requires the department of natural resources to provide free admission to state parks to a Gold Star family member.
- Requires the bureau of motor vehicles to update the Gold Star family member license plate form.
- Requires the secretary of education to provide a report and recommendation to the general assembly concerning aligning state funding for dual credit and the advanced placement program with the new high school diploma and expanding access to dual credit course work to all Indiana students.
- Prohibits a school employer from bargaining collectively with the exclusive school employee representative regarding contract costs for curricular materials.
- Establishes a teacher appreciation grant program to provide grants to school corporations and charter schools to attract, reward, and retain teachers who significantly impact student outcomes.
- Repeals the chapter establishing the curricular materials fund and certain provisions related to procedures for reimbursement of costs of providing curricular materials.
- Removes the annual income maximum for choice scholarship eligibility beginning June 29, 2026.
- Specifies the maximum tuition or fee amount that may be charged to enroll a career scholarship student enrolled in the career scholarship account (CSA) program, or an approved intermediary acting on behalf of a career scholarship student, in a career and technical education program, course, or class.
- Changes the administration of the education scholarship program and the CSA program from the treasurer of state to the department of education, and in certain instances, the responsibilities related to the CSA program from the commission for higher education to the department.
- Requires the state board of education to meet at least one time per year (instead of one time per month).
- Requires the commission for higher education to annually prepare and submit to the legislative council and to the budget committee a report that examines the utilization of physical facilities for instruction at each state educational institution.
- Amends the membership appointments and requirements for the board of trustees of Indiana University.
- Requires a state educational institution (institution) to plan and conduct degree program reviews.
- Provides that if:
 - (1) The average number of students graduating in a degree program is below a certain threshold; and
 - (2) The institution would like to continue the degree program; the institution must request approval from the commission.
- Requires the board of trustees of each institution to establish a post tenure review process for tenured faculty that measures productivity and a review process regarding department level promotions and tenure expectations.
- Requires a faculty member to post syllabi on an institution's website. Provides that:
 - (1) Certain faculty governance organization meetings must be open to the public;
 - (2) Faculty governance organization actions are advisory only; and
 - (3) Members of faculty governance organizations must be employees of the institution to vote.
- Repeals provisions regarding the election of members to the board of trustees of Indiana University by the alumni of Indiana University.
- Repeals the non–reverting provisions for the higher education award fund and the freedom of choice grant fund.
- Authorizes the department of child services to enter into a written agreement with the department of state revenue to transfer the administration of the child support bureau to the department of state revenue.

- Requires a clerk to collect a small claims service fee of \$26 in each action filed in a Marion County small claims court.
- Establishes the small claims fund.
- Requires the court to distribute certain fees to the county auditor for distribution to the small claims fund.
- Provides that the fees in the small claims fund are to be distributed equally among the townships and the fees must fund the operation of the small claims court located within the township.
- Requires the state comptroller to transfer:
 - (1) \$15,000,000 from the addiction services fund; and
 - (2) \$25,000,000 from the department of insurance fund; to the tobacco master settlement agreement fund on July 1, 2025.
- Requires the budget agency to transfer to the state general fund the balance in the freedom of choice grant fund (IC 21-12-4-5) and the higher education award fund (IC 21-12-3-19) that is not needed for the payment of scholarship awards in the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.
- Requires the office of management and budget to submit a report to the budget committee with options for reforming:
 - (1) A certain funding model in the Indiana office of technology; and
 - (2) The management performance hub.
- Requires the northwest Indiana regional development authority to transfer certain money received from wagering revenues to the northern Indiana commuter transportation district for operation and maintenance costs of the South Shore line that are attributable to the operations of the part of the South Shore line located in Lake County.
- Provides that:
 - (1) An appropriation to the legislative council and the legislative services agency for a state fiscal year ending before July 1, 2027, reverts to the state general fund as directed by the personnel subcommittee of the legislative council; and
 - (2) An employee in an entity in the legislative or judicial branch of state government is eligible to participate in a pilot program for converting unused excess accrued leave to a monetary contribution for the employee in the employee's 401(a) matching account with Hoosier START.
- Changes the effective dates of the provisions of HEA 1601-2025 to January 1, 2026.
- Urges the legislative council to assign to the appropriate interim study committee during the 2025 legislative interim the task of studying the impact of removing caseload limitations for the department of child services.
- Removes the statewide innovation development district fund as a funding source for an agreement between the Indiana economic development corporation (IEDC) and a taxpayer to receive payment in lieu of claiming an economic development for a growing economy tax credit.
- Amends the cap on the aggregate amount of tax credits the IEDC may certify each year.
- Amends provisions concerning the designation of an innovation development district (district) to add certain qualification requirements.
- Provides for the determination of the:
 - (1) Base assessed value;
 - (2) Gross retail base period amount; and
 - (3) Income tax base period amount; in a district.
- Requires the executive of a city, county, or town, or, if applicable, executives, and the IEDC to enter into an agreement establishing the terms and conditions governing any district (instead of only certain districts).
- Repeals the statewide innovation development district fund.
- Establishes the economic development reserve account.
- Increases the maximum amount of covered taxes that may be captured in the Evansville professional sports and convention development area (PSCD) from \$10 per resident to \$2,000,000 and expands the PSCD area.
- Provides that unexpended and unencumbered amounts appropriated from the federal economic stimulus fund in P.L.165-2021 do not revert to the state general fund.

- Specifies that a company that seeks to construct, operate, and maintain a carbon dioxide transmission pipeline in Indiana must apply to the department of natural resources (DNR) for a carbon dioxide transmission pipeline certificate of authority (certificate).
- Amends provisions in existing law that provide an exemption from the requirement to obtain a certificate under certain circumstances to specify that the exemption does not apply in circumstances in which proposed pipeline crosses a parcel for which the pipeline company would be required to obtain a right-of-way or easement for the pipeline.
- Establishes the carbon sequestration project program administrative fund (fund) for the purpose of defraying the administrative costs of the DNR in managing and operating the carbon sequestration project program (program).
- Requires the DNR to deposit the following in the fund (instead of in the state general fund, under current law):
 - (1) Filing fees for applications for carbon dioxide transmission pipeline certificates of authority.
 - (2) Filing fees for applications for permits for carbon sequestration projects.
 - (3) The fee paid by a storage operator based on the amount of carbon dioxide injected into a storage facility.
 - (4) The cash bond and permit fee required to be paid by a person that applies for a permit for drilling, converting, or operating a nonproduction well for use in carbon dioxide investigations.
- Requires the DNR to deposit certain fees and penalties in the carbon dioxide storage facility trust fund (instead of in the state general fund, under current law).
- Amends the Indiana Code section requiring the payment of a fee that is based on the amount of carbon dioxide injected into a storage facility by a storage operator, to provide that the fee is to be:
 - (1) Paid annually (instead of one time after the storage operator begins injecting carbon dioxide into the storage facility); and
 - (2) Based on the number of metric tons of carbon dioxide injected into the storage facility during the immediately preceding calendar year (instead of based on the metric tons of carbon dioxide proposed to be injected during the first 10 years of the carbon sequestration project).
- Increases the cigarette tax by \$2 per pack on cigarettes weighing not more than three pounds per 1,000 and by a proportionate amount on cigarettes weighing more than three pounds per 1,000.
- Increases the tax rate imposed on the sale of closed system cartridges, open system electronic cigarettes, moist snuff, alternative tobacco products, other tobacco products, and cigars.
- Provides that a managed care organization that participates in the risk based managed care program that fails to pay a claim submitted by a nursing facility provider within a specified period shall pay a penalty of \$500 per calendar day per claim.
- Requires the office of the secretary of family and social services (office of the secretary) to determine rebate eligibility for outpatient prescription drugs prescribed to Medicaid recipients from certain entities.
- Adds a member from the mental health Medicaid quality advisory committee to the therapeutics committee.
- Removes the prohibition on prior authorization for mental health drugs.
- Allows the office of the secretary to establish a prior authorization program.
- Specifies provider payment requirements that apply to any managed care organization that participates in the risk based managed care program.
- Establishes the health care engineering fund for the purpose of funding plan reviews for certain health facilities.
- Imposes a fee for each plan review, which is deposited in the fund.
- Repeals the provisions requiring the office of the secretary of family and social services to transfer \$38,000,000 each year to the Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County.
- Makes certain eligibility changes for the On My Way Pre-k program and the CCDF program.
- Adds therapeutic ibogaine research to the research that is currently funded under the therapeutic psilocybin research fund.
- Provides that a community mental health center that provides compensation to any individual employee in an amount that is \$400,000 or more per year is not eligible to receive funding from local property taxes or state programs or grants but excluding the Medicaid program.

- Provides that funding to a local board of health from the local public health fund may only be used for Indiana residents who are legal citizens of the United States.
- Extends the sunset of the collection of health facility quality assessment fees from June 30, 2025, to June 30, 2027.
- Establishes the Indiana local government investment pool board for the purpose of establishing policies governing the investment of funds contributed to the local government investment pool.
- Removes political affiliation requirements that apply to members appointed by the governor to the board for depositories.
- Allows the Indiana finance authority to begin a project related to the Learning and Training Center in Boone County beginning July 1, 2027, if certain conditions are met.
- Requires that the salary matrix for state police, capitol police officers, and department of natural resources law enforcement officers be adjusted each time an adjustment is made to a pay plan for state employees in the executive branch.
- Adds purposes related to the Stop the Bleed program and the purchase of bleeding control kits to the allowable purposes for which a secured school fund matching grant may be used.
- Makes conforming changes.

HEA 1005, P.L. 146 – HOUSING AND BUILDING MATTERS

Author: Rep. Doug Miller (R-Elkhart)

Sponsor: Sen. Linda Rogers (R-Granger)

Policy Areas: Administration, Community and Economic Development, and Infrastructure and Transportation

Aim Comments

HEA 1005 arose as a priority from home developers to expedite the inspection and permit approval process for areas experiencing significant housing growth. This bill introduces a new process for third-party professionals to conduct required city inspections or plan reviews for single-family residential homes.

The reviews must be conducted by licensed professionals within their areas of professional expertise. Architects and engineers can perform required plan reviews and building inspectors, not home inspectors. These third parties cannot conduct any zoning reviews, floodplain reviews, or any other function that only the city can conduct. The municipality has 7 days to approve or deny the third-party reviews once the municipality has determined that all other city reviews have been completed and the third-party has submitted all required documentation. Up to a \$100 fee can be charged for accepting the third-party review. The city retains authority to conduct inspections during construction and issue stop work orders as necessary.

This process does not become law until January 1, 2026, in order for local governments to prepare their processes and identify issues that could potentially be addressed in future legislation. While circumventing existing local processes is not an ideal outcome, this bill improved significantly from when it was introduced and Aim will continue working with the bill authors in future sessions to ensure the process is manageable for municipalities, prioritizing the safety of local residents.

Summary of Provisions

- Requires (rather than allows) a city, town, or county (unit) that requires a building permit for construction of a Class 2 structure to allow the inspection to be provided by private providers in addition to the unit's inspectors.
- Provides that a "home inspector" or a unit employee may not act as a private provider. Provides that if an applicant uses a private provider because the unit is unable to timely perform a plan review, the unit:
 - (1) Must refund the applicant for any plan review fees; and
 - (2) May charge a convenience fee of not more than \$100.
- Provides that a unit:
 - (1) May not require a registered architect or engineer to prepare construction documents for a Class 2 structure when constructed in accordance with the building code; and
 - (2) May require a registered architect or engineer to prepare construction documents as proof of equivalence of alternative materials, appliances, equipment, or method of design or construction.

- If required by the unit, creates deadlines for the following:
 - (1) Issuance of building permits.
 - (2) Performance of plan reviews.
 - (3) Performance of inspections.
 - (4) Submission of construction documents or plans.
 - (5) Issuance of certificates of occupancy or certificates of completion and compliance.
- Requires the state to give political subdivisions that enact certain land use policies priority in receiving loans from the residential housing infrastructure assistance revolving fund.

HEA 1008, P.L. 148 – INDIANA-ILLINOIS BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT COMMISSION

Author: Rep. Todd Huston (R-Fishers)

Sponsor: Sen. Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville)

Policy Area: Administration

Summary of Provisions

- Establishes the Indiana–Illinois boundary adjustment commission, including six members appointed by the governor and five members appointed under Illinois law, to discuss and recommend whether it is advisable to adjust the boundaries between the two states.

HEA 1012, P.L. 15 – NOTICE TO OWNER OF THE SITE OF AN ACCIDENT

Author: Rep. J.D. Prescott (R-Union City)

Sponsor: Sen. Scott Alexander (R-Muncie)

Policy Area: Public Safety

Summary of Provisions

Provides that, on or before July 1, 2026, each law enforcement agency shall adopt and implement protocols for the law enforcement agency to notify a real property owner of:

- (1) Damage to the owner’s real property, crops, or a building, structure, or fixture attached to the owner’s real property that is reported to a law enforcement officer or law enforcement agency; and
- (2) Debris identified by a law enforcement officer or law enforcement agency that is left on the owner’s real property that could damage farm equipment or other vehicles or property; resulting from a motor vehicle accident.

HEA 1014, P.L. 218 – PUBLIC SAFETY

Author: Rep. Alex Zimmerman (R-North Vernon)

Sponsor: Sen. Sue Glick (R-LaGrange)

Policy Areas: Administration and Criminal Code

Aim Comments

HEA 1014 became a bill of interest in the final hours of the legislative session as language concerning obscene performances was amended into the bill. Originally, this concept was part of another bill that failed to progress forward, causing the bill author to search for a destination for the language prior to Sine Die. It specifies that local units may not organize or host an obscene performance or fund an obscene performance using public funds. It also authorizes a person to seek injunctive relief as a remedy for violating this requirement.

Aim’s concern with the language surrounding obscene performances is the lack of specificity within the definition of obscenity in the law, which may lead to increased litigation as communities seek to understand the limitations within the bill.

Summary of Provisions

- Limits the total of the consecutive terms of imprisonment to which a defendant is sentenced for misdemeanor convictions arising out of an episode of criminal conduct.
- Provides that depositing or causing or allowing the deposit of contaminants or solid waste upon land is a Class C misdemeanor in certain circumstances.

- Makes it a sentencing aggravator that:
 - (1) The person is in the United States unlawfully; or
 - (2) A person distributed a controlled substance to at least three different individuals in a 180 day period.
- Makes it a sentencing mitigator for certain controlled substance offenses that the person sought and successfully completed treatment for a substance use disorder:
 - (1) In the year before the commission of the offense; or
 - (2) After committing the offense and before sentencing.
- Provides that a governmental entity may not organize or host an obscene performance or fund an obscene performance using public funds, and authorizes a person to seek injunctive relief as a remedy for a violation.
- Increases the penalty for resisting law enforcement under certain circumstances. Replaces the term “child pornography” with the term “child sex abuse material” throughout the Indiana Code.
- Makes certain provisions concerning juvenile court jurisdiction retroactive.
- Specifies that a facility having custody of a person arrested for certain crimes may not release the person on bail for at least 24 hours.
- Permits virtual bail hearings.
- Makes conforming amendments.

HEA 1033, P.L. 28 – RETAINAGE REQUIREMENTS

Author: Rep. Jim Pressel (R-Rolling Prairie)

Sponsor: Sen. Linda Rogers (R-Granger)

Policy Areas: Administration, Infrastructure and Transportation, Municipal Finance, and Utilities

Summary of Provisions

- Changes the maximum amount of retainage for certain state and local public works projects from:
 - (1) 10% to 6% of the dollar value of all work satisfactorily completed until the public work is 50% complete; and
 - (2) 5% to 3% of the dollar value of all work satisfactorily completed until the public work is substantially complete.
- Removes the requirement of a minimum amount of retainage for certain state and local public works projects.

HEA 1037, P.L. 150 – STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

Author: Rep. Doug Miller (R-Elkhart)

Sponsor: Sen. Blake Doriot (R-Goshen)

Policy Areas: Environmental, Infrastructure and Transportation, and Utilities

Aim Comments

The intention of HEA 1037 is to streamline the process for regulating stormwater during construction projects. This bill mandates that no law, ordinance, or rule can exceed the requirements of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) Construction Stormwater General Permit (CSGP). The original version of the bill applied only to projects exceeding 1 acre in size, but due to the lobbying efforts of Aim and other stakeholders, the bill’s author expanded the language to all projects, despite the size.

HEA 1037 does allow, under certain circumstances, that a local unit or IDEM can issue a written warning to anyone engaging in land disturbing activities resulting in a stop work order for the site.

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that a unit does not have the power to adopt a law, rule, ordinance, or regulation that is more stringent than or exceeds in any manner the requirements of the department of environmental management’s (IDEM) construction stormwater general permit (CSGP).
- Provides that if a law, rule, ordinance, or regulation is more stringent than or exceeds the CSGP, then:
 - (1) The law, rule, ordinance, or regulation is void; and
 - (2) The unit must continue to discharge its duties under IDEM’s CSGP program.

- Provides that a unit or IDEM may under certain circumstances:
 - (1) Issue a written warning to a person engaging in land disturbing activities; and
 - (2) Issue a stop work order for the site.
- Makes conforming changes.

HEA 1050, P.L. 1 – TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

Author: Rep. Karen Engleman (R-Georgetown)

Sponsor: Sen. Aaron Freeman (R-Indianapolis)

Policy Area: Administration

Summary of Provisions

- Addresses technical issues in the Indiana Code, including those related to spelling, tabulation, formatting, grammar, and cross-references.
- Resolves technical conflicts from the 2024 legislative session.
- Makes conforming amendments. (The introduced version of this bill was prepared by the code revision committee.)

HEA 1051, P.L. 84 – MOBILE INTEGRATION HEALTHCARE GRANTS

Author: Rep. Jim Pressel (R-Rolling Prairie)

Sponsor: Sen. Mike Crider (R-Greenfield)

Policy Areas: Healthy Communities and Municipal Finance

Summary of Provisions

Provides that the following are eligible for a mobile integration healthcare grant:

- (1) An emergency medical services provider agency that is operated by a county;
- (2) An emergency medical services provider organization; and
- (3) A hospital; if certain conditions are met.

HEA 1052, P.L. 151 – ONSITE SEWAGE SYSTEMS

Author: Rep. Jim Pressel (R-Rolling Prairie)

Sponsor: Sen. Rick Niemeyer (R-Lowell)

Policy Areas: Environmental, Healthy Communities, and Utilities

Summary of Provisions

- Requires the Indiana department of health (state department) or the executive board of the state department to adopt, revise, update, or repeal rules concerning residential and non-residential onsite sewage systems.
- Alters who may vote on the technical review panel, the process to resolve a tie vote, and when the panel may meet.
- Provides that the technical review panel may not approve an ordinance concerning residential onsite sewage systems unless certain conditions are met.
- Voids certain ordinances.
- Provides that certain updates to rules concerning residential and nonresidential onsite sewage systems are subject to standard rulemaking procedures.

HEA 1056, P.L. 2 – CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Author: Rep. Wendy McNamara (R-Evansville)

Sponsor: Sen. Cyndi Carrasco (R-Indianapolis)

Policy Area: Criminal Code

Summary of Provisions

- Adds additional substances to the list of controlled substances.

HEA 1079, P.L. 154 – PROPERTY MATTERS

Author: Rep. Alex Zimmerman (R-North Vernon)

Sponsor: Sen. Scott Alexander (R-Muncie)

Policy Areas: Administration and Courts

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that if a tenant does not claim the tenant's property within 45 days after receiving a certain notice, a warehouseman or storage facility may sell the tenant's property (current law requires a warehouseman or storage facility to wait 90 days).

HEA 1095, P.L. 16 – INDIANA CRIME GUNS TASK FORCE

Author: Rep. Earl Harris Jr. (R-Gary)

Sponsor: Sen. Dan Dernulc (R-Highland)

Policy Area: Public Safety

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that the Indiana crime guns task force area may include Lake County.
- Increases the number of executive board members required for a quorum from five to seven.
- Specifies that the position for which the chairperson voted prevails in the case of a tie vote as long as that position has received the affirmative votes of at least four members of the executive board. (Current law requires the affirmative votes of at least three members for a tie to be settled in favor of the chairperson's position.)

HEA 1113, P.L. 156 – FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS

Author: Rep. Alex Zimmerman (R-North Vernon)

Sponsor: Rep. Mike Crider (R-Greenfield)

Policy Areas: Healthy Communities, Municipal Finance, and Public Safety

Summary of Provisions

- Provides, in certain circumstances, for the expansion of the purposes for which a fire protection district may be established.

HEA 1114, P.L. 117 – DRIVING WITHOUT A LICENSE

Author: Rep. Alex Zimmerman (R-North Vernon)

Sponsor: Sen. Eric Koch (R-Bedford)

Policy Areas: Criminal Code and Public Safety

Summary of Provisions

- Adds the following criminal offenses for an individual who knowingly or intentionally operates a motor vehicle on a highway and has never received a valid driver's license:
 - (1) A Class A misdemeanor if the operation of the motor vehicle results in bodily injury.
 - (2) A Level 6 felony if the operation of the motor vehicle results in serious bodily injury.
 - (3) A Level 5 felony if the operation of the motor vehicle results in the death or catastrophic injury of another person.
- Makes it a Class A misdemeanor to:
 - (1) Apply for a driver's license or permit with the intent to transfer the license or permit to an individual not entitled to the license or permit; or
 - (2) Register or apply for a certificate of title to a motor vehicle with the intent to permit an individual not entitled to a driver's license or permit to operate the vehicle.
- Increases the penalty to a Level 6 felony if the offense involves at least two individuals or motor vehicles, or if the person uses a business organization or nonprofit organization to commit the offense.

HEA 1118, P.L. 51 – CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT DEBRIEFINGS

Author: Rep. Wendy McNamara (R-Evansville)

Sponsor: Sen. Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville)

Policy Area: Public Safety

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that a first responder recipient of critical incident stress management (CISM) services may not be compelled to testify or otherwise disclose a communication made to a CISM services provider or peer support team member relating to the first responder recipient's CISM services in a civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding.
- Provides that a first responder recipient or the first responder recipient's employer may not be held liable for damages for any act, error, or omission committed by the first responder recipient based on a communication provided between a first responder recipient and CISM team, CISM services provider, or peer support team as part of the CISM services unless the act, error, or omission constitutes wanton, willful, or intentional misconduct.

HEA 1121, P.L. 3 – CONCURRENT JUVENILE DELINQUENCY JURISDICTION ON MILITARY BASES

Author: Rep. Wendy McNamara (R-Evansville)

Sponsor: Sen. Liz Brown (R-Fort Wayne)

Policy Area: Courts

Summary of Provisions

- Creates a process for the state to establish concurrent jurisdiction with the United States for certain juvenile delinquency proceedings on Indiana military property.

HEA 1122, P.L. 4 – UNLAWFUL ENCROACHMENT

Author: Rep. Wendy McNamara (R-Evansville)

Sponsor: Sen. Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville)

Policy Areas: Criminal Code and Public Safety

Summary of Provisions

- Authorizes a law enforcement officer to order a person to stop approaching the law enforcement officer if the officer reasonably believes that the person's presence within 25 feet of the officer will interfere with the performance of the officer's duties.
- Provides that a person who knowingly or intentionally approaches within 25 feet of a law enforcement officer after being ordered to stop approaching commits unlawful encroachment on a law enforcement officer, a Class C misdemeanor.

HEA 1126, P.L. 104 – WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS

Author: Rep. Dave Heine (R-New Haven)

Sponsor: Sen. Tyler Johnson (R-Leo)

Policy Areas: Environmental and Utilities

Summary of Provisions

- Alters the membership of a watershed development commission board that includes the Maumee River basin (Maumee watershed development commission).
- Provides that a Maumee watershed development commission may take certain actions with respect to certain flood plains.
- Expands permitted uses for certain funds collected by a Maumee watershed development commission and establishes certain budget limits.
- Provides that the Department of Natural Resources' division of water shall provide a Maumee watershed development commission with a written summary of the division's review of certain public works projects within 30 days of the review.
- Makes conforming changes.

HEA 1131, P.L. 52 – TOWN OF CUMBERLAND

Author: Rep. Doug Miller (R-Elkhart)

Sponsor: Sen. Mike Crider (R-Greenfield)

Policy Area: Administration

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that on January 1, 2027, the town of Cumberland is an excluded city and no longer part of the consolidated city.
- Requires the town legislative body and the legislative body of the consolidated city and county to take any steps necessary to transition the town to an excluded city.
- Requires the department of local government finance to adjust property tax levies, rates, budgets, and distributive shares of local units of local government as necessary to account for the town becoming an excluded city.
- Provides that, after December 31, 2026, any part of the town that is included in a fire protection district on December 31, 2026, that is located in the county containing the consolidated city, shall continue to be included in the fire protection district.
- Provides that, after December 31, 2026, the town is liable for debt service owed by the consolidated city on December 31, 2026, in the same ratio as the assessed valuation of the property in the town bears to the assessed valuation of all property included in the consolidated city until the particular debt service is satisfied.

HEA 1132, P.L. 17 – STADIUM AND CONVENTION BUILDING AUTHORITY

Author: Rep. Doug Miller (R-Elkhart)

Sponsor: Sen. Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville)

Policy Area: Administration

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that the Indiana finance authority is required to provide staff support for the Indiana stadium and convention building authority board. (Current law provides that the Indiana stadium and convention building authority is required to provide staff support.)

HEA 1134, P.L. 158 – EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Author: Rep. Ben Smaltz (R-Auburn)

Sponsor: Sen. Jim Buck (R-Kokomo)

Policy Area: Administration

Aim Comments

HEA 1134 expands on a previously enrolled act passed requiring public agencies to live stream and archive their public meetings when feasible. Recordings must be preserved and made available to the public for a specified period of time. Executive sessions are exempted from the livestreaming and archiving requirements. Aim continues to advocate for clarifying language addressing technical failures when attempting to adhere to the live streaming requirements.

Summary of Provisions

- Allows meetings of a state or local agency governing body concerning the following topics to be held in executive session:
 - (1) Employee health care options with respect to special exceptions to coverage.
 - (2) Employee specific compensation or employment matters of individual employees (excluding general discussion of employee compensation during a budget process).
 - (3) Employee handbook changes.
 - (4) Review of negotiations on the performance of publicly bid contracts, when public knowledge may result in increased cost.
 - (5) Solicitation of contract proposals containing a bidder's proprietary information.

HEA 1137, P.L. 32 – EXPUNGEMENT OF RED FLAG LAW RECORDS

Author: Rep. Ben Smaltz (R-Auburn)

Sponsor: Sen. Aaron Freeman (R-Indianapolis)

Policy Area: Courts

Summary of Provisions

- Requires a court to expunge certain records related to the red flag law if the court finds that an individual is not dangerous and permits a court to expunge certain records related to the red flag law if the court finds that an individual previously found dangerous is no longer dangerous.

HEA 1142, P.L. 233 – FISCAL MATTERS

Author: Rep. Jeff Thompson (R-Lizton)

Sponsor: Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle)

Policy Areas: Administration and Municipal Finance

Aim Comments

HEA 1142 was held open at the end of session as a trailer bill to fix problems in other bills that had already been passed or, like the budget, had to be posted for at least 24 hours in order to be voted on per parliamentary rules.

This bill removed the TrustIN language in the budget that would have considered TrustIN a financial institution and constitute a bid for local governments.

This bill also amended the changes to the plan commission procedures in SEA 425 so that city and town councils can decide whether they elect, in their policies, to give the city or town executive a veto on final plan commission approvals.

Summary of Provisions

- Extends the expiration of provisions concerning a county with a single voting block and the allocation of votes for a local income tax council.
- Removes provisions enacted in HEA 1001–2025 that treated the local government investment pool as a financial institution and considered the seven day yield published weekly by the treasurer of state to be a quote for purposes of the law governing the deposit and investment of public funds.
- Provides that money in the Pokagon Band Tribal–state compact fund is continuously appropriated for the purposes of the fund.
- Extends by five years provisions enacted in HEA 1001–2025 requiring termination of the compact related to the establishment of the Chicago–Gary Regional Airport Authority.
- Resolves a conflict between SEA 425–2025 and HEA 1005–2025.
- Makes conforming amendments consistent with changes made to statutes concerning advisory plan commissions in SEA 425–2025.

HEA 1144, P.L. 224 – COURTS

Author: Rep. Chris Jeter (R-Fishers)

Sponsor: Sen. Liz Brown (R-Fort Wayne)

Policy Area: Courts

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that the judges of the Marion County juvenile courts may not appoint more than 11 magistrates.
- Eliminates a court in Blackford County and Monroe County.
- Eliminates a magistrate in Jennings County. Allows the judges of the Elkhart circuit and superior courts to appoint four full-time magistrates. (Current law allows for the appointment of two magistrates.)
- Adds two superior courts to Hamilton County.
- Provides that the first judges of Hamilton superior courts No. 8 and No. 9 shall:
 - (1) Be elected at the November 2026 general election;
 - (2) Take office January 1, 2027; and
 - (3) Serve a term of six years.

- Allows the judges of the Hamilton circuit and superior courts to jointly appoint two additional magistrates to serve the Hamilton County courts.
- Allows the judge of the Lawrence County juvenile court to appoint not more than one full-time magistrate.
- Allows the judges of the Vigo circuit and superior courts to jointly appoint one magistrate to serve the Vigo County courts.

HEA 1167, P.L. 53 – EXCEPTIONS TO PARAPHERNALIA STATUTES

Author: Rep. Jennifer Meltzer (R-Shelbyville)

Sponsor: Sen. Brett Clark (R-Avon)

Policy Areas: Criminal Code and Public Safety

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that the controlled substance paraphernalia statutes do not apply to items marketed to detect the presence of a drug or controlled substance.

HEA 1196, P.L. 18 – MEMBERSHIP OF AVIATION BOARDS

Author: Rep. Tony Isa (R-Angola)

Sponsor: Sen. Stacey Donato (R-Logansport)

Policy Area: Administration

Aim Comments

HEA 1196 removes the two-member political party limit for a board of aviation commissioners and an airport authority. Aim supported this bill throughout the legislative session and attempted to expand the bill to include other governing bodies. There was little desire to expand this year, but the author and sponsor expressed interest in continuing the conversation in the future sessions. Aim believes HEA 1196 is an important tool for smaller entities struggling to adhere to political party membership requirements to fill positions on their local aviation boards.

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that an eligible entity with a population of less than 38,000 is not subject to the political party membership requirements for a board of aviation commissioners or an airport authority.

HEA 1198, P.L. 86 – LOCAL PUBLIC WORK PROJECTS

Author: Rep. Ethan Lawson (R-Greenfield)

Sponsor: Sen. Mike Crider (R-Greenfield)

Policy Areas: Administration, Community and Economic Development, Infrastructure and Transportation, and Municipal Finance

Aim Comments

HEA 1198 expands the ability for municipalities to complete public work projects themselves prior to bidding them out to contractors. The new law widens the capacity for projects municipalities can complete by expanding the cost limit to \$375,000, adjusted annually for inflation. Additionally, the requirement for the adjusted annual cost must be posted on the Department of Local Government Finance's (DLGF) website annually for increased transparency. Aim supported HEA 1198 as it moved through the legislative session, testifying numerous times before the House and Senate committees on Local Government.

Summary of Provisions

- Changes the amount of a public work project that a board may perform using its own workforce, without awarding a contract, from an estimated cost of less than \$250,000 to an estimated cost of less than \$375,000, adjusted annually to account for inflation.
- Provides that the department of local government finance shall annually publish the adjusted cost estimate threshold on the department's website.
- Removes the distinction between a political subdivision that is a school corporation and a political subdivision that is not a school corporation for the cost of a public work project that is not subject to certain procedures.

- Provides that if a federal grant is to be issued to fund a portion of the construction on a public work project, the successful bidder has 90 days to proceed with the contract.
- Provides that plans and specifications approved by an architect or engineer are not required for certain public work on a public building.

HEA 1214, P.L. 87 – WORKER’S COMPENSATION

Author: Rep. Matt Lehman (R-Berne)

Sponsor: Sen. Andy Zay (R-Huntington)

Policy Area: Administration

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that, after June 30, 2025, a party may not prohibit an employer from bidding on a contract solely on the basis of the employer’s experience rating.

HEA 1221, P.L. 226 – PENSION MATTERS

Author: Rep. Mike Karickhoff (R-Kokomo)

Sponsor: Sen. Brian Buchanan (R-Lebanon)

Policy Areas: Administration and Municipal Finance

Summary of Provisions

- Amends provisions regarding the surcharge rates established by the Indiana public retirement system to actuarially prefund certain postretirement benefits.
- Adds provisions requiring the treasurer of state to determine a surcharge amount that is to be paid into the supplemental reserve account for the state police pre-1987 and 1987 benefit systems.
- Provides for a thirteenth check in calendar year 2025 for certain members, participants, or beneficiaries of the:
 - (1) Indiana state teachers’ retirement fund;
 - (2) Indiana public employees’ retirement fund;
 - (3) State excise police, gaming agent, gaming control officer, and conservation enforcement officers’ retirement plan;
 - (4) State police pre-1987 benefit system; and
 - (5) State police 1987 benefit system.
- Makes conforming changes.

HEA 1232, P.L. 118 – IDACS

Author: Rep. Alaina Shonkwiler (R-Noblesville)

Sponsor: Sen. Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville)

Policy Areas: Administration, Innovation and Technology, and Public Safety

Summary of Provisions

- Clarifies that certain information shall be entered into the Indiana data and communication system (IDACS) within 24 hours of the information’s receipt unless otherwise provided by law.
- Provides that the state police department, in consultation with the criminal justice institute, may take certain actions for noncompliance.
- Makes conforming amendments.

HEA 1275, P.L. 163 – ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO COMMISSION MATTERS

Author: Rep. Ethan Manning (R-Logansport)

Sponsor: Sen. Ron Alting (R-Lafayette)

Policy Areas: Administration and Community and Economic Development

Summary of Provisions

- Makes the following changes:
 - (1) Expands the purpose of the Richard D. Doyle tobacco education and enforcement fund.
 - (2) Amends type II gambling game prize limits to include sports themed gaming.

- (3) Replaces a reference in the definition of a “Type II gambling game” to an Indiana gaming commission memorandum with a substantive definition.
- (4) Eliminates the requirement that a farm winery or artisan distiller annually submit excise tax returns to the alcohol and tobacco commission (ATC).
- (5) Removes a phrase that requires an e-liquid to contain nicotine to be considered a “tobacco product” under provisions concerning tobacco sales certificates.
- (6) Amends local alcoholic beverage board members’ duties to reflect electronic record keeping.
- (7) Requires an employee or contractor who controls entry into age restricted premises or otherwise checks an individual’s proof of age to complete alcohol server training.
- (8) Prohibits the ATC from issuing an alcoholic beverage permit unless a person has on file with the ATC a verified list containing the name and address of each person or entity:
 - (A) with actual authority to direct or control the operation of the permit; and
 - (B) holding at least a 5% (instead of 2%) interest in the permit and the business conducted, or to be conducted, under it.
- (9) Prohibits charging an individual a cover fee to access unlimited alcoholic beverages. Allows the sale of event packages.
- (10) Replaces, in statutes regarding unlawful sales to minors, references to “tobacco”, “e-liquid”, or “electronic cigarette” with the inclusive term “tobacco product”.
- (11) Allows a person to participate electronically in an online auction or raffle but requires alcoholic beverage prizes to be collected in person.
- (12) Modifies the insurance coverage requirements that apply to specified permit holders.
- (13) Allows specified local government entities to permit the retail sale of alcoholic beverages in certain areas if a person that has an agreement to act as concessionaire for the permitted premises applies for and secures the necessary permits.
- (14) Establishes requirements regarding permittee donations to qualified organizations that are permittees conducting an event.
- (15) Prohibits, with exceptions, the sale, use, and distribution of flavored nitrous oxide.
- Repeals statutes that do the following:
 - (1) Allow the ATC to require registration of alcoholic beverage brands and other information used in advertising.
 - (2) Require attachment of an identification marker to a keg at the time of sale.
 - (3) Make it a Class C misdemeanor to transport an alcoholic beverage to a retailer or dealer on a Sunday.

HEA 1276, P.L. 164 – VARIOUS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE MATTERS

Author: Rep. Ethan Manning (R-Logansport)

Sponsor: Sen. Ron Alting (R-Lafayette)

Policy Areas: Administration and Community and Economic Development

Summary of Provisions

- Allows a craft manufacturer to participate in a farmers’ market, subject to certain conditions.
- Allows a liquor retailer and a liquor dealer to serve samples of mixed beverages. Increases, from 45 to 75 days, the number of days in a calendar year the alcohol and tobacco commission (commission) may approve for a craft manufacturer to participate in a trade show or exposition.
- Repeals a provision prohibiting a beer dealer from selling and delivering beer for carry-out, or for delivery to a customer’s residence or office, in a quantity that exceeds 864 ounces in a single transaction.
- Repeals a limitation on the maximum quantity of liquor that a liquor dealer may deliver to a customer’s residence or office at any one time.
- Repeals a provision that allows the holder of a farm winery permit to sell the winery’s wine to consumers by the bottle at a farmers’ market that is operated on a nonprofit basis.
- Repeals a limitation on the maximum quantity of wine that a wine dealer may sell in a single transaction.
- Provides that the commission may issue a three-way permit:
 - (1) To a theater within the historic district of a city with a certain population; and
 - (2) That is not subject to the quota.
- Requires a permittee to obtain written permission from the appropriate local or state agency to locate

- a restaurant or hotel patio or terrace in the public right-of-way.
- Allows the commission to issue a food hall master permit to a food hall that meets certain requirements.

HEA 1292, P.L. 119 – PROFESSIONAL SPORTS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Author: Rep. Earl Harris Jr. (D-Gary)

Sponsor: Sen. Ryan Mishler (R-Mishawaka)

Policy Area: Community and Economic Development

Summary of Provisions

- Establishes the northwest Indiana professional sports development commission. Authorizes the commission to study various plans and recommendations that are proposed with respect to attracting a professional sports franchise to northwest Indiana.
- Authorizes the commission to prepare a comprehensive master plan for building the facilities and other infrastructure necessary for attracting and developing one or more professional sports franchises in northwest Indiana.
- Creates the professional sports development fund.

HEA 1380, P.L. 63 – SUPPLEMENTAL FEE FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Author: Rep. Pat Boy (D-Michigan City)

Sponsor: Sen. Blake Doriot (R-Goshen)

Policy Area: Infrastructure and Transportation

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that the supplemental fee to register an electric vehicle does not apply to a motor driven cycle.

HEA 1390, P.L. 227 – BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Author: Rep. Jim Pressel (R-Rolling Prairie)

Sponsor: Sen. Mike Crider (R-Greenfield)

Policy Areas: Infrastructure and Transportation and Municipal Finance

Summary of Provisions

- Provides the records of the bureau of motor vehicles (bureau), for purposes of showing the last registered owner of a vehicle when obtaining a certificate of title for a repossessed vehicle, mean records related to certificate of titles or registrations.
- Allows the bureau to issue an electronic certificate of registration.
- Requires a toll operator to invoice a user not later than one year after a toll is incurred.
- Allows the bureau to issue a temporary registration permit at the bureau's discretion if a person meets certain requirements.
- Allows the bureau to offer alternative designs or color scheme versions of license plates.
- Requires a customer who selects both an alternative design or color scheme and a personalized license plate message for a license plate to pay two separate fees.
- Amends the requirements for a special group recognition license plate.
- Allows an insurance company to submit a signed or unsigned certificate of title for the issuance of a certificate of salvage title.
- Provides that a slow moving vehicle emblem and the emblem's position of mounting must substantially adhere to certain recommendations.
- Repeals provisions concerning the Indiana criminal justice institute's rulemaking authority concerning slow moving vehicle emblems.
- Provides that a commercial driver's license (CDL) may include an intrastate passenger transport endorsement if the applicant is at least 18 years of age.
- Provides maximum prices that public and private institutions and other entities may charge for conducting skills exams.
- Provides that a learner's permit, driver's license, identification card, and photo exempt identification card expire upon the bureau receiving notice of the death of the holder or upon issuance of a subsequent physical credential.

- Effective January 1, 2028, requires the bureau to maintain a secure online insurance verification system to verify proof of a driver's financial responsibility.
- Establishes the real time insurance verification advisory board.
- Allows a law enforcement officer to include in a written accident report whether a driver's medical impairment may have contributed to an accident.
- Removes the population requirement for a county to enter into an interlocal cooperation agreement with an adjacent county to allow a public transportation corporation to provide expanded service beyond the boundary of the county in which it is located.
- Prohibits a person from advertising:
 - (1) A product containing marijuana; or
 - (2) A controlled substance listed in schedule I; by any medium.
- Adds to the definition of a "consumer transaction" for purposes of deceptive consumer sales.
- Requires a towing company to release property to a consumer if the consumer pays a percentage of the towing invoice, obtains a bond for the remaining amount of the invoice, and provides a copy of a complaint filed with the attorney general.
- Requires a city, county, or town to credit the proceeds from the sale of an abandoned vehicle or parts against the costs of removal, storage, and disposal of the vehicle.
- Establishes rates a towing company may charge for fees for emergency towing or private property towing.
- Allows a county to mow or maintain any grass or vegetation in a right-of-way that is owned by the state and located in the county if the county obtains a permit from the office of the Indiana department of transportation district in which the county is located.

HEA 1392, P.L. 120 – STATE COMPTROLLER MATTERS

Author: Rep. Ed Clere (R-New Albany)

Sponsor: Sen. Cyndi Carrasco (R-Indianapolis)

Policy Areas: Administration, Community and Economic Development, Infrastructure and Transportation, and Municipal Finance

Aim Comments

HEA 1392 was the State Comptroller's agency bill. This bill puts the Comptroller's office in charge calculating the distribution of the CVET and FIT funds to local governments. It also allows revenue from these distributions to be distributed into any fund, including the general fund, and used for any legal purpose.

Summary of Provisions

- Specifies the timing of annual salary increases for state elected officials.
- Provides that the state comptroller calculates distributions of financial institutions tax revenue to taxing units.
- Provides that a taxing unit may deposit a distribution of financial institutions tax revenue in any fund, and the revenue may be used for any purpose allowed by law.
- Requires the state comptroller to calculate and provide the distribution amounts of commercial vehicle excise tax revenue for each taxing unit in a county to the county auditor.
- Provides that the county auditor may deposit a distribution of commercial vehicle excise tax revenue in any fund, and the revenue be may used for any purpose allowed by law.
- Removes a requirement that a prosecuting attorney notify the state comptroller of the prosecuting attorney's election to devote full professional time to the duties of the office.
- Provides that an individual is not required to file any notification with the state comptroller that the individual has been elected or appointed to a judgeship.
- Requires the state comptroller and Indiana public retirement system to develop and present to the interim study committee on pension management oversight a proposed plan for a transition from the use of, and contribution of state revenue to, retirement medical benefits accounts to an increased focus on the use of, and additional contributions of state revenue to, the state employees' deferred compensation plan.

HEA 1393, P.L. 121 – IMMIGRATION NOTICE

Author: Rep. Garrett Bascom (R-Lawrenceburg)

Sponsor: Sen. Aaron Freeman (R-Indianapolis)

Policy Area: Public Safety

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that if a law enforcement officer arrests an individual for a felony or a misdemeanor and there is probable cause to believe that the individual is not lawfully present in the United States, the jail or detention facility shall notify the county sheriff of the probable cause during the individual's intake process, and the county sheriff shall notify the proper authority.

HEA 1403, P.L. 122 – JUVENILE JUSTICE MATTERS

Author: Rep. Wendy McNamara (R-Evansville)

Sponsor: Sen. Mike Crider (R-Greenfield)

Policy Area: Courts

Summary of Provisions

- Amends the duties of the statewide juvenile justice oversight body established by the commission on improving the status of children in Indiana (oversight body).
- Requires the Indiana criminal justice institute (institute) to consider the recommendations of the oversight body (rather than consider only a single, specified plan developed by the oversight body as provided under current law) in adopting a funding formula for the juvenile diversion grant program, juvenile community alternatives grant program, and juvenile behavioral health competitive grant program.
- Requires a recipient of a grant under the juvenile diversion grant program, juvenile community alternatives grant program, or juvenile behavioral health competitive grant program to engage in collaborative service planning with specified entities and sets out the characteristics of collaborative service planning.
- Makes the following changes with regard to the juvenile behavioral health competitive grant program (program):
 - (1) Provides that the institute may use available funds to strengthen the institute's capacity to manage grants under the program.
 - (2) Requires the institute to submit an annual report to specified recipients regarding the program.
 - (3) Removes references to pilot program from the juvenile behavioral health competitive grant pilot program.
- Amends comparable provisions regarding:
 - (1) The juvenile diversion grant program and juvenile community alternatives grant program; and
 - (2) The program; to bring the provisions into closer conformity with one another.
- Amends certain deadlines concerning funds.

HEA 1427, P.L. 230 – DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Author: Rep. Craig Snow (R-Warsaw)

Sponsor: Sen. Eric Bassler (R-Washington)

Policy Areas: Administration, Community and Economic Development, Innovation and Technology, Municipal Finance, and Utilities

Aim Comments

HEA 1427 is the annual Department of Local Government Finance bill that becomes a home for a variety of language affecting local government. This year was no different and there were many significant changes in this bill.

HEA 1427 reduces the cable franchise fee cap from 5% to 4% and reduces the effective cable franchise fee rate by 1 point for all municipalities statewide (if currently 5%, down to 4%, if at 4%, down to 3%, etc. but cannot reduce it lower than 1%). This is another negative revenue hit for local governments this session.

This bill also amends the budget continuance process so that a local government budget is continued from the

prior year because it is not properly adopted or for other administrative reasons it can now be increased by up to 80% of the MLGQ instead of being held flat.

This bill also includes many new food and beverage taxes for cities and towns all over the state. However, it does take aim at units with food and beverage taxes that are not submitting their required annual reports. If your unit has a food and beverage tax, be sure to submit the reports on time to ensure this tool is still available in the future!

This bill also included trailer language for SEA 1 to delay the implementation of some of the new property tax provisions past 2025, so it does not affect the tax bills that have already been calculated.

Summary of Provisions

- Increases the threshold that applies to public works projects for which the department of natural resources may use its employees to perform the labor and supervision for the project.
- Removes the sunset of provisions that authorize the sale of bonds at a negotiated sale.
- Amends provisions pertaining to the investment of public funds in certain depositories.
- Requires the fiscal officer (rather than the executive) of a political subdivision to upload certain contracts to the Indiana transparency website (website).
- Permits the political subdivision to identify an individual other than the fiscal officer to upload contracts to the website.
- Provides that the change to the agricultural base rate in Senate Bill 1 does not apply for the January 1, 2025, assessment date to land in inventory.
- Repeals the increase in the personal property tax exemption for the 2025 assessment in Senate Bill 1, but retains the increase of the personal property tax exemption to \$2,000,000 for the 2026 assessment date and thereafter.
- Removes an exception to provisions added in Senate Bill 1 exempting depreciable personal property placed in service after January 1, 2025, from the 30% minimum valuation floor if property tax revenue that is attributable to the depreciable personal property is pledged as payment for bonds, leases, or other obligations.
- Repeals the local property tax credits for veterans enacted in Senate Bill 1 and reinstates the property tax deductions in current law for veterans that were expired under Senate Bill 1.
- Provides that the personal property online submission portal (portal) may be used to file a personal property return until 2026. Repeals (effective January 1, 2026) the provision requiring the establishment of the portal and makes corresponding changes.
- Adds requirements for the filing of a petition for review of land values.
- Amends a provision pertaining to the assessment of solar land.
- Provides for the assessment of community land trust property and a property tax credit for community land trust property.
- For purposes of public utility companies, specifies that the period of time that a taxpayer may file an objection with the department of local government finance (DLGF) is not later than 15 days after the notice is postmarked.
- Provides, for particular calendar years, that all or part of a building is deemed to serve a charitable purpose and is exempt from property taxation if it is owned by certain nonprofit entities.
- Establishes a maximum entry fee per unit that may be charged by a continuing care retirement community to qualify for the property tax exemption.
- Adds, for particular calendar years, continuing care retirement communities, small house health facilities, and qualified residential treatment providers to the list of exempt entities for purposes of another property tax exemption.
- Provides that the DLGF may (as opposed to shall) adopt certain rules with respect to property of an exempt organization used in a nonexempt trade or business.
- Amends the requirements that must be satisfied to receive a property tax exemption for property used by a for-profit provider of early childhood education.
- Establishes a partial property tax exemption for an employer that provides child care on the employer's property for the employer's employees and certain other employees.
- Amends certain notice and procedural provisions applicable to proceedings before the Indiana board of tax review.

- Clarifies the deadline for submitting amended certified net assessed value amounts.
- Specifies the calculation of the maximum permissible property tax levy for certain units that fail to comply with certain budget and tax levy review and adoption procedures.
- Adds provisions that:
 - (1) Require the DLGF to increase the maximum permissible property tax levy for certain qualifying municipalities for property taxes first due and payable in 2025 to include all debt service levies of the qualifying municipality for property taxes first due and payable in 2025;
 - (2) Specify that the adjustment is a one time and permanent increase;
 - (3) Modify the:
 - (A) Local income tax trust account threshold percentage of a county that contains a qualifying municipality (for purposes of determining whether the county shall receive a supplemental distribution); and
 - (B) Certified share allocation determination for a qualifying municipality; and
 - (4) Prohibit the use funds from the state general fund to make up certain local income tax related shortfalls.
- Provides temporary one time increases for the maximum permissible ad valorem property tax levies for Shelby County and the Shelby County solid waste management district.
- Provides that the county treasurer is not required to mail or transmit a statement for property that is exempt from taxation and does not have a reported assessed value.
- Requires the DLGF, in a manner determined by the DLGF, to include on the coupon page XXX of each property tax statement educational information regarding the eligibility and procedures for various property tax benefits available to certain taxpayers.
- Provides that a tract or item of real property owned by a political subdivision may not be sold at a tax sale.
- Removes a provision requiring the county executive to provide an annual report to the legislative council concerning certain tax sales.
- Provides that property tax assessment board of appeals members' terms must be staggered for a two year period and begin on January 1.
- Provides that a property tax payment made by a check processing company received after the due date for the property taxes is considered to be made on or before the due date if the taxpayer provides reasonable evidence that the payments were made on or before the due date.
- Reestablishes the deduction for aircraft entitling a taxpayer to a deduction from the assessed value of abatement property in each year in which the abatement property is subject to taxation for ad valorem property taxes.
- Provides a sales tax exemption for sales by agricultural commodity trade associations made at the state fair.
- Provides certain sourcing rules for the adjusted gross income of an investment partnership.
- Defines "investment partnership" and other related terms.
- Specifies that an electing entity or pass through entity shall be permitted to claim a credit for taxes withheld or paid on the entity's behalf.
- Allows an electing entity to make elections to claim certain state tax liability credits and sets forth requirements that apply to those elections.
- Expands the physician practice ownership tax credit against state tax liability to practicing physicians (instead of only primary care physicians) who have an ownership interest in a physician practice and meet other eligibility criteria.
- Limits the total amount of physician practice ownership tax credits that may be awarded in a state fiscal year.
- Specifies that a volunteer fire department that applies to the county adopting body for a distribution of local income tax revenue that is allocated to public safety purposes must do so through the fiscal officer of the unit served by the department.
- Allows the Fountain County council to adopt a resolution to make a one time transfer from the county jail revenue fund to the county general fund to be used for specified purposes.
- Allows revenue generated from a special purpose local income tax rate in Starke County to be used to operate and maintain the county jail and related facilities.

- Increases the amount of the local collection assistance fee.
- Provides a presumption of reasonable cause exception to the penalty for failure to file a return in the case of certain small partnerships.
- Amends the provisions to conform to the reasonable cause exception applicable to the failure to file penalty available under federal tax procedures (IRS Rev. Proc. 84–35, 1984–1 C.B. 509).
- Authorizes numerous local units to impose food and beverage taxes.
- Allows the town of Shipshewana to increase its food and beverage tax.
- Removes language excluding transactions that occur at a historic hotel from the Orange County food and beverage tax and amends provisions that apply to the uses of the tax revenue.
- Repeals provisions authorizing the imposition of food and beverage taxes in Wayne County.
- Reallocates the amounts of revenue received from the Vanderburgh County innkeeper’s tax that is deposited in certain funds.
- Authorizes certain counties to impose an innkeeper’s tax under separate enabling statutes.
- Allows Brown County to increase its innkeeper’s tax rate.
- Prohibits the deposit or transfer of money in an innkeeper’s or food and beverage tax fund into any other fund, or deposit or transfer of money from any other fund into an innkeeper’s or food and beverage tax fund.
- Requires a local unit that imposes a food and beverage tax (as part of its required annual reporting) to provide to the state board of accounts a consolidated financial statement for the preceding year.
- Requires the state board of accounts to:
 - (1) Determine whether or not local units imposing a food and beverage tax, and other entities that receive a distribution of food and beverage tax revenue, are in compliance with current reporting requirements and applicable statutory requirements; and
 - (2) Submit a report of its findings to the legislative council.
- Provides for a reduction of the percentage of gross revenue to be paid to a unit of local government by a holder of a cable franchise.
- Requires the office of the secretary of family and social services to apply to the United States Department of Health and Human Services for an amendment to each home and community based services Medicaid waiver for certain eligibility criteria related to asset limit thresholds.
- Specifies that certain school corporation property tax referenda are eligible to be on the ballot in an election held in the fall of 2025.
- Applies certain access to financial data requirements to charter schools.
- Restores language in a provision amended by Senate Bill 1 regarding optional revenue sharing with charter schools.
- Specifies that a minimum population for application of certain provisions concerning:
 - (1) The assessment of industrial facilities;
 - (2) The general government of counties; and
 - (3) The division of powers of certain counties; is 450,000 (instead of 400,000).
- Allows a county fiscal body to make loans of money for not more than 10 years (rather than five years under current law) and issue notes for the purpose of refunding those loans.
- Allows a person who is:
 - (1) Engaged in the business of renting or furnishing, for periods of less than 30 days, certain lodging facilities located within an economic development district; and
 - (2) Liable for a special benefits assessment for the property; to charge a fee of not more than \$1 per night.
- Provides that the northwest Indiana regional development authority must be reimbursed for amounts deposited in the blighted property demolition fund not later than July 1, 2027 (instead of July 1, 2026).
- Requires local units to make semiannual fire service reports to the state fire marshal which, in turn, is required to submit the data reported to the legislative council.
- Provides for funding for cultural institutions.
- Urges the legislative council to assign to the appropriate interim study committee the task of studying certain issues relating to property exempt for charitable purposes.
- Amends a 2025 law requiring certain disclosures concerning appointed officers to provide that if an appointed board is a subgroup of an elected body that is appointed entirely:

- (1) From the body's elected members; and
- (2) By a member or members of the elected body; the appointed board may publish a board member's name and elected title in the board's meeting notice or agenda with a link or web address to the website where information of each board member's appointment and term is published.
- Removes provisions enacted by HEA 1001–2025 that:
 - (1) Treated the local government investment pool as a financial institution; and
 - (2) Considered the seven day yield published weekly by the treasurer of state to be a quote for purposes of the law governing the deposit and investment of public funds.
- Provides that money in the Pokagon Band Tribal–state compact fund is continuously appropriated for the purposes of the fund.
- Provides that funding to a local board of health from the local public health fund may only be used for Indiana residents who are lawfully present in the United States.
- Resolves conflicts.

HEA 1448, P.L. 169 – SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS TO QUALIFIED CITIES

Author: Rep. Hal Slager (R-Schererville)

Sponsor: Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle)

Policy Area: Municipal Finance

Summary of Provisions

- Changes the effective date of the supplemental payments to qualified cities statute.
- Requires the state comptroller to distribute annual supplemental payments to qualified cities, that were not previously paid, using money sourced from a combination of:
 - (1) Amounts to be deducted from the amount payable to Gary under the disposition of tax revenue statute; and
 - (2) Money appropriated by the general assembly.
- Requires the city of Gary to repay to the state the amounts the state appropriates for the supplemental payments, once the total amount of supplemental payments has been made to qualified cities, through continued monthly deduction of Gary wagering tax, and until the full amount appropriated by the state is repaid.

HEA 1457, P.L. 171 – INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Author: Rep. Brad Barrett (R-Richmond)

Sponsor: Sen. Ed Charbonneau (R-Valparaiso)

Policy Areas: Administration and Healthy Communities

Summary of Provisions

- Specifies that provisions of law governing the office of administrative law proceedings apply to the Indiana department of health (state department) in matters concerning the involuntary transfer or discharge of a resident of a health facility.
- Specifies conditions for the use of updated publications for design enforcement by the state department in the regulation of hospitals and ambulatory outpatient surgical centers.
- Amends the list of crimes or acts that preclude a home health aide, nurse aide, or other unlicensed employee from employment at a home health agency and certain health care facilities.
- Amends the list of crimes that preclude a person from operating a home health agency or personal services agency.
- Requires the state department to:
 - (1) Investigate any report that a nurse aide or home health aide has been convicted of a certain crime; and
 - (2) Remove the individual from the state nurse aide registry.
- Makes it a Class A infraction for a person convicted of a certain crime to knowingly or intentionally apply for a job as a home health aide or other unlicensed employee at a home health agency or certain health care facilities.
- For provisions concerning the women, infants, and children nutrition program (WIC program), defines "WIC vendor agreement".

- Requires the state department to:
 - (1) Select WIC program vendors based on selection criteria set forth in federal regulations;
 - (2) Review the selection criteria annually;
 - (3) Include the selection criteria in the WIC state plan; and
 - (4) Publish the selection criteria on the state department's website.
- For purposes of submitting a death record of a stillborn, requires the physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) last in attendance to initiate the document process unless the physician, physician assistant, or APRN was not present upon the deceased.
- Includes reporting to local child fatality review teams, the statewide child fatality review committee, local fetal–infant mortality review teams, and suicide and overdose fatality review teams for the release of mental health records without the consent of the patient.
- Requires the state department to:
 - (1) Approve courses concerning auto–injectable epinephrine that meet criteria established by the state department (rather than courses offered by an approved organization as defined in current law); and
 - (2) Publish the criteria on its website.
- Removes a provision allowing the state department to contract with a third party to create a certificate of completion for a course.
- Removes the expiration of the statewide maternal mortality review committee.
- Amends the membership of the statewide child fatality review committee.

HEA 1459, P.L. 91 – WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY ASSET MANAGEMENT

Author: Rep. Jim Pressel (R-Rolling Prairie)

Sponsor: Sen. Eric Koch (R-Bedford)

Policy Areas: Administration, Environmental, Infrastructure and Transportation, Municipal Finance, and Utilities

Aim Comments

HEA 1459 requires water and wastewater utilities that are not under the jurisdiction of the IURC to create an asset management plan and submit a report of the plan on a quadrennial basis. However, many communities already have asset management plans if they utilize the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) State Revolving Fund (SRF), as creating an asset management plan is a requirement of the program. The bill additionally requires the governing body of the utilities to complete training once every four years ensuring best practices.

The bill outlines a three–strike plan addressing units that fall out of compliance from the requirements within HEA 1459. First, a unit will receive a warning. Second, a unit will fall under the jurisdiction of the IURC if they fail to respond accordingly following the first warning. If a unit complies with all of the requirements, they will have an opportunity to no longer stay under the jurisdiction of the IURC. However, if the unit receives a third strike, the utility may be subject to receivership.

Aim worked diligently with the bill's author and sponsor to loosen the original bill proposal and allow more flexibility within the requirements of both the asset management plan and also the action for recourse.

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that beginning January 1, 2026, a water or wastewater utility (utility) that is not under the jurisdiction of the Indiana utility regulatory commission (IURC) for the approval of rates and charges shall submit a report on the utility's asset management program (program) to the IURC on a quadrennial basis according to a schedule prescribed by the IURC.
- Provides that a utility's report must include information:
 - (1) Demonstrating the utility's efforts to implement the Indiana finance authority's guidelines for asset management programs; and
 - (2) Certifying that:
 - (A) The utility has the technical, managerial, legal, and financial capability to support those efforts; and

- (B) For a report submitted after December 31, 2026, the governing body of the utility has completed a training or continuing education program, as required under the bill, at least one time during the four year reporting period.
- Provides that evidence that a utility has submitted an asset management program to the Indiana finance authority (IFA) in connection with an application for a grant, loan, or other financial assistance may be provided by the utility to satisfy the requirement to demonstrate the utility's efforts to implement the IFA's guidelines for asset management programs.
- Requires the IURC to adopt before October 1, 2025, a general administrative order (GAO) setting forth the:
 - (1) Information required to be included in a utility's report;
 - (2) Procedures for submission of the report, including a simplified alternative reporting form that a utility with less than 1,000 customers may elect to submit;
 - (3) Quadrennial reporting schedule for submitting a report; and
 - (4) Criteria to be used by the IURC in making certain determinations about a utility's asset management program.
- Provides that the IURC shall verify on a quadrennial basis:
 - (1) The sufficiency of each utility's program; and
 - (2) The program's compliance with the IURC's GAO.
- Provides that if the IURC determines that specified deficiencies exist with respect to a utility's program, the IURC:
 - (1) Shall notify the utility of the deficiency and provide the utility a time frame in which the utility must correct the deficiency; and
 - (2) May require the utility to undergo an informal rate review.
- Provides that if a utility receives two consecutive notices of a deficiency from the IURC:
 - (1) The IURC shall assert jurisdiction over the rates and charges of the utility; and
 - (2) The utility must undergo base rate cases under the statutory procedure that applies to wastewater utilities that have been issued two enforcement orders by the department of environmental management.
- Provides that if a utility receives three consecutive notices of a deficiency over the course of three consecutive verifications, the IURC may initiate a receivership proceeding with respect to the utility.
- Authorizes the IURC to enter into an agreement with:
 - (1) The department of environmental management; and
 - (2) The Indiana finance authority; to carry out these requirements.
- Authorizes the IURC to delegate its authority to:
 - (1) Review reports submitted by utilities under the bill's provisions; and
 - (2) Issue determinations and notices of deficiency; to technical staff, subject to the right of a utility to appeal a determination by technical staff to the full IURC.
- Provides that beginning January 1, 2027, the governing body of a utility must, on at least a quadrennial basis, complete a training or continuing education program that:
 - (1) Includes instruction on specified topics; and
 - (2) Is offered by:
 - (A) The IURC;
 - (B) The drinking water and wastewater infrastructure research and extension program; or
 - (C) A statewide not-for-profit association for rural water or wastewater utilities.

HEA 1460, P.L. 172 – DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

Author: Rep. Jim Pressel (R-Rolling Prairie)

Sponsor: Sen. Rick Niemeyer (R-Lowell)

Policy Areas: Administration, Environmental, and Utilities

Summary of Provisions

- Requires a unit to use data from the most recent:
 - (1) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps; and
 - (2) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Atlas; to calculate and regulate storm water runoff from a developed or undeveloped plat.

- Authorizes a unit to use data from the neighboring state in closest proximity to the developed or undeveloped plat under consideration.
- Requires a plan commission or plat committee to take action on a plat application, including meeting with any stakeholders with a financial interest in the application, not later than 30 days after receiving the application.
- Provides that if a plan commission or plat committee fails to make written findings and a decision granting or denying primary approval to a plat not later than 60 days after a public hearing, then the plat is considered to have received primary approval.

HEA 1461, P.L. 173 – ROAD FUNDING

Author: Rep. Jim Pressel (R-Rolling Prairie)

Sponsor: Sen. Mike Crider (R-Greenfield)

Policy Areas: Community and Economic Development, Infrastructure and Transportation, and Municipal Finance

Aim Comments

HEA 1461 contains several provisions for funding Indiana's roads. First, the bill sets aside \$100M for the traditional Community Crossings Matching Grant (CCMG) program. Prior to session, legislative leadership shared their intentions to tie the adoption of a Wheel Tax to accessing CCMG funds, but after extensive review, the legislature decided to uncouple the requirement to adopt the Wheel Tax to access the funds. Instead, the funding is available for communities participating in the CCMG program with or without a Wheel Tax. That said, communities are incentivized to adopt a Wheel Tax to access any additional, unused program funds. The additional funding will be distributed to communities with a Wheel Tax, calculated by a lane miles distribution formula. Additionally, HEA 1461 assists smaller communities (10,000 population or under) hoping to participate in the CCMG program by lowering the match to 20% from 25%. Moreover, there will now be \$50M set aside annually for the City of Indianapolis to match for further funding.

Other portions of the bill address the TRAX program, which is designed to fund rail grade separation projects. The changes in HEA 1641 will now set aside \$20M per year for the next five years to help fund this program. The bill also contains language clarifying the responsibilities of bridges between the municipalities and the counties. And, as it relates to the Local Motor Vehicle Highway (MVH) fund, communities are only required to use 40% (down from 50%) of their MVH money for construction, reconstruction, and preservation expenditures if the community's roads receive an average PASER rating of 6 or higher.

Summary of Provisions

- Makes various changes to provisions concerning roads and transportation.
- Allows a taxpayer to claim a credit against state income tax liability for certain qualified railroad expenditures and qualified new rail infrastructure expenditures.
- Specifies the amount of the credit. Limits the total amount of credits that may be allowed in a state fiscal year and provides for the expiration of the credit.
- Increases the maximum rate a county containing a consolidated city (consolidated city) may impose for the county wheel tax and the county vehicle excise tax and specifies the purposes for which the proceeds of those taxes must be appropriated.
- Beginning in 2026, lowers the percentage of funds distributed to counties, cities, and towns (local units) from the motor vehicle highway account that must be used for construction, reconstruction, and preservation of a local unit's highways if certain conditions related to pavement quality are satisfied.
- Amends provisions pertaining to the Indiana finance authority's authorization to issue revenue bonds or notes, including grant anticipation revenue bonds or notes, to finance highway and road construction projects.
- Allows the Indiana department of transportation (department) to submit a request to the Federal Highway Administration for a waiver to toll lanes on interstate highways.
- Provides that, if a request for a waiver to toll lanes on interstate highways is granted, the general assembly is not required to enact a statute before tolling may occur.
- Allocates responsibility for bridges in a county between that county and a municipality based on the size and location of the bridge.

- Allows a local county road and bridge board to undertake low water crossing projects.
- Requires the department to ensure that information regarding funding sources for low water crossing projects is made available to county boards of commissioners and county highway departments.
- Provides that money in the local road and bridge matching grant (matching fund) must be allocated, transferred, and distributed for specified purposes.
- Specifies the timing of those allocations, transfers, and distributions. Imposes conditions on the allocations, transfers, and distributions made from the matching fund, including, in state fiscal years beginning after June 30, 2027, limitations on the ability of a local unit to apply for a grant in certain circumstances.
- Allows local units to use grants from the matching fund for low water crossing projects.
- Reduces the required local matching amounts and increases the population thresholds that apply to certain local units, if the department approves a grant from the matching fund.
- Restates a provision allocating 50% of the amount available in the matching fund to local units with a population of less than 50,000.
- Increases the speed limit on Interstate Highway 465.
- Requires all townships to annually adopt a capital improvement plan, which must include the balance of all unrestricted funds that exceed the township's budget for the following year.
- Provides that a township must transfer 30% of the amount of the balance of all unrestricted funds that exceed the township's budget for the following year to the township roads and infrastructure fund.
- Requires a township board to adopt a resolution in favor of providing money for the improvement and maintenance of roads and infrastructure within the township before a township transfers money for such projects.
- Provides, for purposes of the provisions regarding township capital improvement plans and township roads and infrastructure funds, that unrestricted funds are cash reserves that are not obligated, committed, encumbered, or restricted for specified purposes.
- Urges the legislative council to assign to the interim study committee on roads and transportation the study of appropriate road funding formulas.
- Makes conforming changes.

HEA 1466, P.L. 92 – VARIOUS AGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Author: Rep. Jennifer Meltzer (R-Shelbyville)

Sponsor: Sen. Cyndi Carrasco (R-Indianapolis)

Policy Area: Administration

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that the department of natural resources is subject to the jurisdiction of the office of administrative law proceedings.
- Provides that the secretary of family and social services is the ultimate authority for Medicaid applicants and recipient eligibility appeals.
- Provides that in Medicaid applicant eligibility cases, except in certain circumstances, the order from the administrative law judge is final after 61 days without further affirmation from the ultimate authority.
- Provides that the review of certain professional disciplinary reviews are not subject to the office of administrative law proceedings.
- Sets forth the process to select a hearing officer for the professional disciplinary reviews.
- Makes changes to motor vehicle dealer services statutes to be consistent with the jurisdiction of the office of administrative law proceedings.
- Provides that the department of child services (DCS) is the ultimate authority of the review of decisions concerning residential childcare base rates.
- Removes the duty of DCS to adopt rules concerning the administrative review by DCS of a proposed or approved substantiated report of child abuse or neglect, before or after an administrative hearing is available or conducted.
- Makes conforming changes. Makes technical corrections and conforming amendments required by HEA 1003–2024 concerning the office of administrative law proceedings.

HEA 1467, P.L. 64 – CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Author: Rep. Tim Wesco (R-Osceola)

Sponsor: Sen. Mike Gaskill (R-Pendleton)

Policy Area: Administration

Summary of Provisions

- Prohibits a foreign national from making a contribution in connection with a public question.
- Prohibits a political action committee from:
 - (1) Knowingly or willfully; and
 - (2) Directly or indirectly; accepting a contribution or expenditure from a prohibited source.
- Prohibits a foreign national from taking certain actions concerning a public question. Specifies reporting and disclosure requirements that apply to a political action committee and a person who makes an independent expenditure.

HEA 1471, P.L. 93 – LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER IMPEACHMENT EVIDENCE

Author: Rep. Greg Steuerwald (R-Danville)

Sponsor: Sen. Brett Clark (R-Avon)

Policy Areas: Criminal Code and Public Safety

Summary of Provisions

- Establishes the procedure for placing a law enforcement officer's name on a Giglio list. Provides notice and reconsideration procedures.
- Provides requirements for prosecuting attorneys and law enforcement officers.
- Provides civil immunity to prosecuting attorneys for acts related to a Giglio list.

HEA 1477, P.L. 175 – MOBILE HOME COMMUNITIES AND MANUFACTURED HOMES

Author: Rep. Alex Zimmerman (R-North Vernon)

Sponsor: Sen. Blake Doriot (R-Goshen)

Policy Areas: Administration, Community and Economic Development, Healthy Communities, and Utilities

Aim Comments

HEA 1477 was an Aim legislative initiative that came from our members. The first part of this bill responds to issues in several communities where mobile home parks that had a single water meter for the entire park and the owner was not paying their water bills. The communities had no options besides either accepting large amounts of bad debt or shut off water to many residents who were not at fault. HEA 1477 gives IDOH the opportunity to start enforcement actions against these negligent owners as soon as they receive a shutoff notice and, if the issue is not resolved, place the mobile home park in receivership if necessary.

The second part of the bill adjusts some language around planning and zoning for mobile and manufactured homes to respond to ambiguities created by law changes in the past few years.

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that, for purposes of the Indiana department of health's enforcement of statutes governing mobile home communities, if the owner of a mobile home community is provided written notice from a water utility that the mobile home community will be disconnected from water service, the mobile home community is in violation of the mobile home community's statutory obligation to provide water as of the date on which the owner is provided the notice.
- Provides that the owner of the mobile home community and the Indiana department of health must receive written notice at least 30 days before the notice that the water service will be disconnected.
- Authorizes a court to appoint a receiver upon request by a utility providing electric, gas, water, or wastewater utility service to a mobile home community when the property owner has failed to pay:
 - (1) Invoiced utility bills for a period greater than 90 days from the due date; or
 - (2) Amounts due under a curative payment plan for a period of at least 60 days from the initial due date prescribed under the payment plan.
- Specifies that a comprehensive plan or ordinance adopted by a county, city, or town may not categorically preclude installation of all manufactured homes that meet specified requirements as permanent

residences on a lot on which any other type of dwelling unit may be placed.

- Provides units may adopt standards and requirements in the comprehensive plans and ordinances that preclude manufactured homes that exceed 12 feet in width and 500 square feet of occupied space but may not preclude manufactured homes that exceed the standards and requirements in current law of 23 feet in width and 950 square feet of occupied space.

HEA 1509, P.L. 65 – APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Author: Rep. Ed Clere (R-New Albany)

Sponsor: Sen. Eric Koch (R-Bedford)

Policy Area: Administration

Summary of Provisions

- Requires disclosure of the appointing authority and term of an appointed public officer:
 - (1) In the meeting notice and agenda of the board on which the public officer is appointed to serve; and
 - (2) On the board's website or appointing authority's website, if any.
- Provides that if the appointing authority or board does not have a website, the information must be published on the Internet through the computer gateway administered by the office of technology.

HEA 1554, P.L. 36 – DRIVING WITH SUSPENDED DRIVING PRIVILEGES

Author: Rep. Garrett Bascom (R-Lawrenceburg)

Sponsor: Sen. Mike Crider (R-Greenfield)

Policy Area: Public Safety

Summary of Provisions

Specifies that the penalty for a operating a motor vehicle while under a lifetime forfeiture of driving privileges is:

- (1) A Level 6 felony, if the forfeiture occurred before July 1, 2015; and
- (2) A Level 5 felony, if the forfeiture occurred after June 30, 2015.

HEA 1557, P.L. 124 – PRESCRIBED BURNING

Author: Rep. Beau Baird (R-Greencastle)

Sponsor: Sen. Sue Glick (R-LaGrange)

Policy Area: Environmental

Summary of Provisions

- Defines "prescribed burn".
- Provides for the following:
 - (1) Requirements to be met before a person conducts a prescribed burning.
 - (2) That a certified prescribed burn manager and a completed prescribed burn plan must be present during a prescribed burning.
 - (3) Certain civil liability immunities related to conducting a prescribed burn and the prescribed burn certification program.
 - (4) Under certain conditions, exemption of prescribed burning from certain local regulations.
 - (5) That a prescribed burning and the smoke produced by the prescribed burning do not constitute a nuisance.
 - (6) That the division of forestry shall administer the training and certification program for prescribed burning.
- Limits damages for injuries or losses as result of a prescribed burn to actual damages.

HEA 1559, P.L. 95 – CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AS CONSTRUCTOR

Author: Rep. Heath VanNatter (R-Kokomo)

Sponsor: Sen. Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville)

Policy Areas: Administration and Community and Economic Development

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that when a public agency chooses to employ a construction manager as constructor (CMc) on a public works project, the applicable contract award standard for the project is “lowest and best”.
- Increases the maximum amount of work a CMc may perform on a project from 20% of the total value of a project to 30% of the total value of a project.

HEA 1577, P.L. 235 – MOBILE RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSES

Author: Rep. Joanna King (R-Middlebury)

Sponsor: Sen. Tyler Johnson (R-Leo)

Policy Areas: Administration, Community and Economic Development, and Healthy Communities

Aim Comments

HEA 1577 places all food truck licensing for health and safety under the supervision of the Indiana State Department of Health instead of requiring many different licenses by each county health department. All health and safety inspections will still be conducted by the county and they will be able to collect fees for their inspections. However, the license itself will now be statewide and mobile, like the food trucks themselves.

There was language added to this bill intending to clarify that the county health departments cannot require their own licenses. However, it could be construed to supersede other local licenses, like permits for siting or business licenses required by local governments for food trucks in some jurisdictions. This new requirement does not take effect until 2027 in order to resolve unintended consequences caused by the change. Aim will continue working with all stakeholders to ensure that existing municipal processes are not disrupted.

Summary of Provisions

- Requires the Indiana department of health (state department) to establish:
 - (1) A statewide mobile retail food establishment license (license);
 - (2) Standards for the licensure, inspection, and operation of a mobile retail food establishment; and
 - (3) License fees and inspection fees.
- Requires the state department to establish a workgroup to collaborate with in implementing specified provisions.
- Beginning January 1, 2027, requires a local health department to:
 - (1) Receive applications for licenses;
 - (2) Collect annual license and inspection fees;
 - (3) Issue licenses; and
 - (4) Conduct semiannual inspections of a mobile retail food establishment that is issued a license.
- Provides that an owner or operator of a mobile retail food establishment issued a license is not required to obtain a county or local license or permit, nor required to pay a county or local inspection fee or a license or permit fee.
- Provides that beginning January 1, 2027, a person may not operate a mobile retail food establishment in Indiana unless the person obtains a license.
- Requires the state department to adopt rules to implement these provisions.
- Repeals provisions of law governing mobile retail food establishment permits effective January 1, 2027.

HEA 1587, P.L. 236 – INSURANCE MATTERS

Author: Rep. Martin Carbaugh (R-Fort Wayne)

Sponsor: Sen. Mike Gaskill (R-Pendleton)

Policy Areas: Healthy Communities, Municipal Finance, and Public Safety

Aim Comments

HEA 1587 is a large insurance omnibus bill containing an Aim initiative. The Aim legislative team primarily engaged on the mobile integrated healthcare section of the bill that provides municipalities with a mechanism in code to bill private insurance. Mobile integrated healthcare has proven to decrease hospital admissions, decrease cost of treatment to the patient, and reduce nonemergency 911 calls that would tie up EMS services. Before this bill, the cost of funding these programs fell on municipalities. The addition of the reimbursement will increase financial viability of these programs and ensure they can continue to provide high-quality healthcare to the most vulnerable members of Indiana’s communities.

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that the director of the state personnel department may make a determination to provide coverage under the state employee health plan for emergency medical services as part of a mobile integrated healthcare program.
- Provides that the requirement for a policy of accident and sickness insurance and a health maintenance organization contract to provide reimbursement for emergency medical services includes emergency medical services that are performed or provided as part of a mobile integrated healthcare program.
- Repeals a provision that requires the department of insurance to maintain an electronic system for the collection and storage of information concerning transactions involving residential property.
- Provides that the article regarding consumer data protection does not apply to any organization exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that is:
 - (1) Established to detect or prevent insurance related crime or fraud; and
 - (2) Subject to a memorandum of understanding with a statewide law enforcement agency.
- Changes the deadline for the Indiana Public Employers' Plan, Inc., to apply to the insurance commissioner for a certificate of authority to transact business as a domestic tax exempt reciprocal insurance company from before December 31, 2026, to before December 31, 2030.
- Repeals the statute requiring carriers of health insurance plans to conduct annual public forums.
- Provides that provisions requiring a notice of material change apply to personal automobile or homeowner's policies that are issued, delivered, amended, or renewed after June 30, 2026.
- Amends the definition of "small employer" in the chapter regarding small employer group health insurance.
- Makes corresponding changes.

HEA 1601, P.L. 178 – QUANTUM RESEARCH TAX INCENTIVES

Author: Rep. Ed Soliday (R-Valparaiso)

Sponsor: Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle)

Policy Areas: Community and Economic Development and Municipal Finance

Summary of Provisions

- Amends the state sales and use tax exemption for data centers to include projects for investments in a quantum computing research, advanced computing, and defense infrastructure network that result in a minimum qualified investment within five years of at least \$50,000,000.

HEA 1605, P.L. 179 – JUVENILE LAW MATTERS

Author: Rep. Julie McGuire (R-Indianapolis)

Sponsor: Sen. Liz Brown (R-Fort Wayne)

Policy Area: Courts

Summary of Provisions

- Requires the family and social services administration (FSSA) to provide address information to the department of child services (department) under specified circumstances subject to federal approval of a state plan amendment or waiver allowing FSSA to do so.
- Provides that it is the policy of the state of Indiana and the purpose of Indiana family and juvenile law to:
 - (1) Recognize the responsibility of the state and of the department for the safety of children who are abused or neglected;
 - (2) Recognize that a parent's interest in receiving services at the time and expense of the state for purposes of reunification is limited;
 - (3) Promote the safety of all children involved in the juvenile justice system; and
 - (4) Ensure timely placement of children in foster care into permanent homes.
- Provides that a procedural deadline in a:
 - (1) Child in need of services (CHINS) proceeding; or
 - (2) Termination of parent-child relationship (TPR) proceeding; is not subject to waiver by a party to the proceeding, except as permitted in specified circumstances under current law.

- Provides that an individual with whom a child is placed during CHINS proceedings is entitled to attend, in its entirety, any hearing conducted as part of:
 - (1) The CHINS proceedings; or
 - (2) TPR proceedings resulting from a TPR petition filed with regard to the child during the CHINS proceedings.
- Provides that a court shall allow an individual who is providing care and supervision of a child as:
 - (1) A foster parent;
 - (2) A long term foster parent; or
 - (3) An unlicensed kinship caregiver; at the time the child is the subject of a CHINS proceeding or TPR proceeding to intervene as a party during any stage of the proceeding if the court makes specified findings.
- Provides that a court shall allow an individual who is providing care and supervision for a child to intervene in a TPR proceeding concerning the child.
- Provides that a child is a CHINS if, before the child becomes 18 years of age:
 - (1) The child's physical or mental health is seriously endangered due to failure of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian to protect the child from exposure to the use, possession, sale, or manufacture of illegal drugs; and
 - (2) The child needs care, treatment, or rehabilitation that the child is not receiving and that is unlikely to be provided or accepted without the coercive intervention of the court.
- Removes a rebuttable presumption in current law that a child's physical or mental health is seriously endangered based on evidence of illegal manufacture of a drug or controlled substance occurring at the child's residence and provides that there is a rebuttable presumption that a child is a CHINS if the court finds that the child's parent, guardian, or custodian willfully or knowingly:
 - (1) Exposed the child to the illegal manufacture or distribution of a legend drug or controlled substance; or
 - (2) Exposed the child to:
 - (A) Methamphetamine;
 - (B) Fentanyl; or
 - (C) A fentanyl containing substance; for which the parent, guardian, or custodian did not have a valid prescription.
- Amends the factors a court must consider when determining whether to detain a child who has been removed from the child's parent, guardian, or custodian to include considerations relating to exposure of the child to a fentanyl containing substance or fentanyl related substance.
- Provides that the rights of the:
 - (1) Child;
 - (2) Child's parents, guardian, or custodian;
 - (3) Department; and
 - (4) Guardian ad litem or court appointed special advocate; as parties to a proceeding regarding the child under Indiana juvenile law include rights of discovery, subpoena, examination of witnesses, and presentation of evidence at any hearing in the proceeding.
- Provides that the statutory deadline for holding of a factfinding hearing in a CHINS proceeding may be extended if the court finds that the extension is necessitated by:
 - (1) Unanticipated, emergent circumstances;
 - (2) The circumstances of the case; or
 - (3) The Indiana Rules of Trial Procedure.
- Provides that there is a rebuttable presumption that a child is a CHINS if the court finds that the child lives in the same household as an adult who is subject to an order issued in a CHINS proceeding that requires the adult to participate in a program of care, treatment, or rehabilitation.
- Adds factors that a court must consider in determining appropriate reunification services in which a child's parent, guardian, or custodian will be required to participate under the child's dispositional decree.
- Provides that:
 - (1) A dispositional decree that:
 - (A) Is entered under specified circumstances; and

- (B) Requires a parent, guardian, or custodian to complete reunification services; may not provide for the parent, guardian, or custodian to receive the reunification services for more than a specified length of time, subject to extension for specified causes; and
- (2) A court reviewing the dispositional decree shall consider the amount of time remaining for the parent, guardian, or custodian to complete the reunification services.
- Specifies that the requirement that a court reviewing a dispositional decree must determine whether the department has made reasonable efforts to provide family services does not apply if a finding has been made that reasonable efforts for family preservation or reunification are not required.
- Provides that in determining the extent to which reasonable efforts to reunify or preserve a family are appropriate, the child's welfare (in addition to the child's health and safety, under current law) is of paramount concern.
- Provides that if the department conducts a criminal history check of:
 - (1) A parent, guardian, or custodian; or
 - (2) A household member of the parent, guardian, or custodian; before reunifying a child with the parent, guardian, or custodian, the department shall (rather than may, under current law) use the results of the criminal history check to decide whether it is safe for the child to return home and shall provide the results of the criminal history check to the court.
- Requires a court to hold a permanency hearing for a child:
 - (1) Who has been removed from the child's parent, guardian, or custodian for at least 12 months; or
 - (2) With regard to whom at least 12 months have expired since a dispositional decree was entered; at the request of any party to the CHINS proceeding that requests a permanency hearing on the basis that continuation of efforts to reunify or preserve the child's family are inconsistent with the best interests of the child.
- Provides that if a child has, at the time of a permanency hearing, been removed from the child's parent for at least 12 of the most recent 22 months, the permanency plan for the child must include at least one intended permanent or long term care and custody arrangement that would not return the child to the care and custody of the parent, guardian, or custodian from whose care and custody the child has been removed.
- Provides that if a child is less than 16 years of age, the intended permanent or long-term care and custody arrangement for the child may be guardianship or placement with a permanent custodian only if the proposed guardian or custodian appears before the court and testifies as to the individual's willingness to assume custody of the child.
- Provides that:
 - (1) If a court approves a permanency plan for a child under which adoption is the only intended permanent or long-term care and custody arrangement, the department shall publish specified information regarding the child to facilitate adoption of the child; and
 - (2) The information published by the department to facilitate adoption of a child who is:
 - (A) A CHINS; and
 - (B) A hard to place child; may include the child's first name and picture.
- Requires a court to hold an initial hearing on a TPR petition not later than 30 days after the petition is filed.
- Provides that under specified circumstances, a TPR petition regarding a child and the child's parent:
 - (1) Must be filed by the department; and
 - (2) May be filed by:
 - (A) The child's guardian ad litem or court appointed special advocate; or
 - (B) An individual:
 - (i) With whom the child is placed during the CHINS proceedings; and
 - (ii) Who is an intervenor in the CHINS proceedings.
- Amends the allegations that may be asserted in a TPR petition.
- Removes a provision requiring a person that files a TPR petition to also file a:
 - (1) Copy of the order approving the permanency plan for the child; or
 - (2) Permanency plan for the child.
- Provides that the deadline for holding a hearing regarding a TPR petition may be extended if the court finds that extension of the deadline is necessitated by:

- (1) Unanticipated, emergent circumstances;
 - (2) The circumstances of the case; or
 - (3) The Indiana Rules of Trial Procedure.
- Provides that a representative of a licensed child placing agency that is providing services to a child during child in need of services (CHINS) proceedings is entitled to attend, in its entirety, any hearing conducted as part of:
 - (1) The CHINS proceedings; or
 - (2) Termination of parent–child relationship (TPR) proceedings resulting from a TPR petition filed with regard to the child during the CHINS proceedings.
- Provides that the requirement that DCS publish specified information regarding a child to facilitate adoption of the child does not apply if the child is already in a pre-adoptive placement in a proposed adoptive home.
- Makes conforming and technical changes.

HEA 1616, P.L. 125 – DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Author: Rep. Shane Lindauer (R-Jasper)

Sponsor: Sen. Sue Glick (R-LaGrange)

Policy Areas: Administration, Community and Economic Development, and Environmental

Summary of Provisions

- Establishes a procedure to be followed when there are unpaid taxes assessed on a mineral interest.
- Adds a \$10,000 cap on a tax credit for a taxpayer who completes preservation or rehabilitation of a historic property.
- Establishes that the department of natural resources can not certify credits into future years, but may maintain credits previously certified (credits granted before March 10, 2025 for expenditures incurred before July 1, 2024).
- Provides conditions and guidelines under which the department of natural resources may establish submerged lands preserves.
- Asks the legislative council to assign to an appropriate interim study committee the topic of studying the economic value of public land for recreation in Indiana.

HEA 1633, P.L. 108 – STUDY OF ELECTION ISSUES

Author: Rep. Ben Smaltz (R-Auburn)

Sponsor: Sen. Mike Gaskill (R-Pendelton)

Policy Area: Administration

Aim Comments

HEA 1633 was originally introduced as a municipal elections bill that moved all municipal elections to the presidential cycle. The Aim legislative team acted quickly in voicing opposition to the change . This was one attempt of many by the legislature to make municipal election changes, but because of the work of Aim’s membership, the bill was amended to reflect a study of the benefit to moving the municipal election cycle, rather than the original proposition.

Summary of Provisions

Requires the secretary of state to do the following:

- (1) Study scheduling of local elections and requiring all counties to use vote centers.
- (2) Conduct at least three public meetings on the topics studied.
- (3) Report the results of the studies to the legislative council before November 1, 2025.

HEA 1637, P.L. 238 – SCHOOL AND PUBLIC SAFETY MATTERS

Author: Rep. Steve Bartels (R-Eckerty)

Sponsor: Sen. Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville)

Policy Areas: Administration and Public Safety

Summary of Provisions

- Expands the eligibility requirements for admission to the Indiana Veterans' Home.
- Provides that the department of natural resources shall provide staff support for the Indiana semi quincentennial commission (commission). (Current law provides that the Indiana department of veterans' affairs provides staff support for the commission.)
- Adds a definition of an "eligible person" for purposes of administering grants for veteran services (GVS). Provides that a qualified entity may receive a GVS to provide certain services to support an eligible person.
- Makes changes to the qualifications to receive a veteran's burial allowance.
- Establishes the Medal of Honor license plate.
- Restores a provision of current law concerning certain disability ratings, as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and educational cost exemptions.
- Updates references throughout the Indiana Code relating to the armed forces of the United States or uniformed services to include the United States Space Force.
- Changes references relating to military discharges.
- Makes technical changes to various references relating to the components of the armed forces of the United States.
- Provides that Hamilton County is not subject to the political party membership requirements for a board of aviation commissioners or an airport authority.
- Establishes the office of school safety within the department of homeland security (department) for the purpose of coordinating and administering school security and safety resources.
- Changes the composition of the secured school safety board.
- Requires a school corporation or charter school to comply with certain safety related requests by the office of school safety.
- Authorizes the department to issue enforcement orders in accordance with rules adopted by the board of firefighting personnel standards and education.
- Removes emergency medical services enforcement authority from the state fire marshal's management authority.
- Provides that the department, a fire department, an airport fire department, or a volunteer fire department may open burn for fire training purposes if certain conditions are met.
- Makes various changes to provisions relating to the department's enforcement authority pertaining to the administrative adjudication of building fire and safety laws.
- Amends the definition of "law enforcement officer" to include the state fire marshal and the executive director or fire investigator of the department.
- Provides that the fire prevention and building safety commission, with certain exceptions, may not adopt a final rule for more than three building codes during any 12-month period.
- Defines "correctional services provider" and adds correctional services providers to the definition of "covered person" for purposes of restricting access to a covered person's address on a public property data base website.
- Provides that a school resource officer who has completed Tier I or Tier II basic training has statewide jurisdiction.
- Provides that a school resource officer may pursue a person who flees from a school resource officer after the school resource officer has, by visible or audible means, including the operation of the school resource officer's siren or emergency lights, identified themselves and ordered the person to stop.
- Increases the penalty for criminal recklessness from a Class B to a Class A misdemeanor.
- Specifies that the immunities and limitations on liability that apply to a law enforcement officer (and the officer's employing agency) acting within the officer's jurisdictional area also apply to an officer (and employing agency) acting outside the jurisdictional area under certain circumstances.
- Makes pointing a firearm by a passenger in a vehicle whose driver is committing criminal recklessness a Level 6 felony under certain circumstances.
- Adds a hospital police department to the definition of police departments required to provide police officers with certain rights.
- Repeals the provision establishing the department of education's division of school building physical security and safety.
- Makes conforming amendments.

HEA 1641, P.L. 181 – COUNTY GOVERNMENT MATTERS

Author: Rep. Jennifer Meltzer (R-Shelbyville)

Sponsor: Sen. Eric Koch (R-Bedford)

Policy Areas: Administration, Community and Economic Development, and Municipal Finance

Aim Comments

HEA 1641 contains an Aim initiative – clarifying the definition of residential property for the purposes of a TIF area. Without this change, starting on July 1, 2025, apartment complexes would not be able to be captured in a TIF area. But with the changes in HEA 1641, apartments can now be captured as is current law and practice. The bill addresses county government matters that do not impact municipalities, except for the TIF language.

Summary of Provisions

- Allows an executive session to be held to communicate with an attorney, subject to the attorney client privilege.
- Excludes conveyances to a unit from the definition of a “conveyance document”.
- Amends requirements for local ordinances concerning the operation of a golf cart or an off-road vehicle.
- Provides that if a body is to be transported by common carrier, the person in charge of interment shall secure a burial transit permit in duplicate from certain individuals.
- Provides that the governing body of a school corporation may enter into a public-private agreement for the construction or renovation of school buildings under the statutes governing public-private agreements.
- Provides that certain fees collected by the county recorder are deposited in the county recorder’s records perpetuation fund.
- Provides that a fee for recording a mortgage assumption is the same as the fee for recording a mortgage.
- Prohibits a county employee from taking action on a county contract, unless permitted by a county ordinance.
- Amends the definition of “residential property” used for an allocation area established after June 30, 2025.
- Provides that, after June 30, 2025, no action shall be brought with respect to jail or prison conditions under state law by an offender until such administrative remedies as are available are exhausted.

HEA 1679, P.L. 240 – VARIOUS ELECTIONS MATTERS

Author: Rep. Tim Wesco (R-Osceola)

Sponsor: Sen. Mike Gaskill (R-Pendleton)

Policy Area: Administration

Summary of Provisions

- Modifies the definition of “candidate”.
- Provides that certain documents and material generated for or used by a political party caucus to select a person to fill a vacancy in an elected office are the property of the political party.
- Provides that the office of the circuit court clerk must remain closed on primary election day and general election day.
- Provides that the circuit court clerk shall perform required duties to conduct elections on primary election day and general election day.
- Specifies that the circuit court clerk is not required to perform on primary election day and general election day a duty other than conducting elections.
- Requires a county, city, town, township, or school to provide to an employee of a local government office who requests leave to serve:
 - (1) On primary election day or general election day; and
 - (2) As a precinct election officer; a paid day of leave to serve as a precinct election officer.
- Specifies an exception.
- Requires certain redistricting authorities to redistrict election districts or recertify existing election districts within the statutory deadlines and withholds payment to a member of a redistricting authority for failure to do so.
- Prescribes fees to be charged by the election division for particular products and services.

- Changes the manner in which a copy of a complaint is to be provided to members of the Indiana election commission.
- Specifies the term of a chairman of a county election board, circumstances under which the chairman is considered to have vacated the office, and the process for electing a member of the board to serve as chairman following a vacancy.
- Provides that a person must:
 - (1) Be at least 18 years of age at the next general, municipal, or special election;
 - (2) Be a United States citizen; and
 - (3) Reside in a precinct continuously before a general, municipal, or special election for at least 30 days; to register to vote in that precinct and may, upon making a proper application, register to vote in that precinct.
- Requires absentee activity reports and other election day reports to be provided by a certain time and provides exceptions.
- Requires the county voter registration official to take certain actions concerning potential nonresidential addresses not later than August 1 of each year.
- Provides that the county voter registration official may not enter a nonresidential address into the statewide voter registration system as a voter's registration address.
- Provides that the spouse of a service member may elect to use the same residence as the member. Requires a county voter registration office to conduct a voter list maintenance program within 48 hours of receiving certain information.
- Allows a county voter registration office to use, for purposes of voter list maintenance:
 - (1) Information received by the county voter registration office indicating that a voter has moved to another state;
 - (2) The return of an absentee ballot sent by the county election board to a voter because of an unknown or insufficient address.
- Requires a county voter registration office that receives information indicating that a voter has moved to another state to mail a specified form to the voter.
- Specifies that a full-time employee of the department of homeland security who is prohibited from participating in political activities is disqualified from assuming or being a candidate for an elected office.
- Requires a write-in candidate for a school board office to file a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate with the county election board.
- Provides, for purposes of stating a candidate's affiliation with a political party in a declaration of candidacy, that if a candidate cast a nonpartisan ballot at an election held at either of the two most recent primary elections in which the candidate voted, a certification by the county chairman is required.
- Provides that, under certain circumstances, a county election board is not required to compile:
 - (1) The addresses of persons for whom declarations of candidacy have been filed; or
 - (2) Information concerning precinct committeemen or state convention delegates.
- Specifies that a circuit court clerk who is required to conduct a special election is not required to publish the address of a candidate.
- Requires candidates for school board office and their candidate's committees to file required instruments with the county election board.
- Requires the names of all:
 - (1) Candidates for presidential electors and alternate presidential electors; and
 - (2) Nominees for President and Vice President of the United States; to be certified to the election division not later than noon September 1 before the general election. (Current law requires certification not later than noon on the second Tuesday in September before the general election.)
- Allows the county election board, by unanimous vote of the board's entire membership, to use bound materials instead of a paper envelope or bag in certain circumstances.
- Requires a voter registration application or absentee ballot application requested through electronic mail by a voter with print disabilities to be provided by electronic mail. (Current law permits providing these documents by fax or mail in certain circumstances.)
- Allows an individual to submit:
 - (1) A replacement ballot statement request; and

- (2) A written replacement ballot request; by electronic mail.
- Repeals a provision that prohibits a voter from:
 - (1) Taking a digital image or photograph of the voter's ballot while in a polling place, except in specified circumstances; and
 - (2) Distributing or sharing the image using social media or by any other means.
- Requires that a voter entitled to cast an absentee ballot before an absentee voter board mark the voter's political party ballot selection on the electronic poll book instead of communicating the selection to the poll clerks.
- Permits a vendor to dispose of a voting system unit or an electronic poll book unit by transferring possession of the unit to a state or county historical society in Indiana.
- Specifies circumstances in which a candidate filing a petition for a recount or contest is liable for the expenses chargeable to another party.
- Provides that a petition for a recount or contest may not be filed earlier than noon 10 days after election day.
- Specifies, with regard to filling a candidate vacancy for a local office, that an authorization to fill vacancies given to a county chairman or a county committee expires at the time of the next election for precinct committeemen for the party with which the county chairman or county committee is affiliated.
- Provides that action to fill an early candidate vacancy must be taken not earlier than May 8 after the primary election if the vacancy exists on a general or municipal election ballot.
- Provides that if only one person seeks to fill a vacancy in a local office held by a major political party, a caucus vote is not required and the county chairman may select that person to fill the vacancy.
- Provides that certain state officers are liable to impeachment for crime, incapacity, or negligence in office. (Current law provides that these officers are liable to impeachment for any misdemeanor in office.)
- Specifies, for purposes of nepotism provisions, that the performance of certain duties of an absentee voter board, an absentee ballot counter, a provisional ballot counter, or an absentee ballot courier is not considered employment by a unit.

HJR 1, P.L. 244 – TOWN AND CITY COURT JUDGES

Author: Rep. Mike Aylesworth (R-Hebron)

Sponsor: Sen. Eric Koch (R-Bedford)

Policy Areas: Administration and Courts

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that the judge of a city or town court shall reside in:
 - (1) The county in which the city or town court is located; or
 - (2) The bordering Indiana county that is the closest Indiana county to the city or town in which the court is located.
- This proposed amendment has been agreed to by one general assembly.

SEA 1, P.L. 68 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Author: Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle)

Sponsor: Rep. Jeff Thompson (R-Lizton)

Policy Areas: Administration, Community and Economic Development, Infrastructure and Transportation, Municipal Finance, and Public Safety

Aim Comments

SEA 1 was introduced as Governor Braun's property tax relief plan that would have been the largest property tax reduction and reform since the property tax caps with long-term effects that would have been even more impactful on property tax revenue than the constitutional caps. Engaging on this bill and improving it was Aim's top legislative priority all session and, thanks to the tireless advocacy of our members, was improved significantly in the final version. It remains a significant property tax relief package, particularly for homeowners, that will negatively impact local government revenue statewide.

The bill phases in new property tax deductions worth 2/3 of homesteads and 1/3 of all other residential and

agricultural property over the next 6 years. It also increases the de minimis exemption for business personal property tax to \$2M and removes the 30% depreciation floor on new property placed in service after January 1, 2025. While this increased exemption will exempt the majority of businesses from paying personal property taxes, it keeps the vast majority of the assessed value in place as large industrial payers hold almost all of the business personal property by value.

The largest immediate impact for homeowners comes in the form of a new tax credit of 10% or \$300 (whichever is less) on the final tax bill. It also converts the existing over-65 and disability deduction to tax credits of comparable value.

The bill also controls some of the fastest growing parts of the tax levy by eliminating excess levy appeals, placing lower rate limits on controlled projects, requiring short-term general obligation bonds and capital referenda to roll off of the tax bills before being readopted, and capping new fire territory rates at 40 cents. The bill also includes a complete overhaul of the local income tax (LIT) system starting in 2028. This will allow municipalities with a population of 3,500 or more to adopt their own LIT rate with all other LIT rates being controlled by the county council. The overall expenditure rate cap is increased to 2.9% and the special LIT rate cap for property tax relief is eliminated. This is a very complicated overhaul, and it will require procedural and technical improvements over the next two years to make it workable. Aim will make improving this process our top legislative priority over the next two years. Rhetorically, the LIT reforms were discussed as the revenue replacement for property tax cuts, and the new system needs to be adjusted to make sure that is workable.

Aim has many additional resources on the impacts of SEA 1. Do not hesitate to reach out for more information.

Summary of Provisions

- Places restrictions on the issuance of certain general obligation bonds.
- Amends a capitalization rate percentage under the statewide agricultural land base rate determination.
- Provides that the percentage cap used to determine the maximum levy growth quotient is 4% in 2026.
- Provides that, notwithstanding any growth in a political subdivision's assessed value (AV) in the previous year, a political subdivision's ad valorem property tax levy shall not exceed the ad valorem property tax levy for its last preceding annual budget, unless the fiscal body of the political subdivision adopts an affirmative tax rate and tax levy increase by ordinance following a separate public hearing.
- Requires a resulting decrease in tax rates for each political subdivision in which there was an increase in the political subdivision's AV in the previous year, subject to any affirmative tax rate and tax levy increase adopted by the fiscal body of the political subdivision.
- Phases out the authority for the department of local government finance (department) to permit an excess tax levy that is based on AV growth, school transportation costs, and other circumstances.
- Retains the provisions that permit an excess tax levy if the civil taxing unit cannot carry out its governmental functions in the case of annexation, a natural disaster, an accident, or an emergency.
- Phases in an increase in the acquisition cost threshold for the business personal property tax exemption from \$80,000 to \$2,000,000.
- Provides that the 30% minimum valuation limitation does not apply to business personal property placed in service after January 1, 2025.
- Phases down the homestead standard deduction over five years to zero beginning for taxes due and payable in 2031.
- Phases in an increase in the supplemental homestead deduction to 2/3 of the AV of the homestead.
- Phases in an AV deduction for all property that is subject to the 2% circuit breaker credit for excessive property taxes for assessment dates beginning in 2025 up to a 1/3 AV deduction for taxes due and payable in 2031, and each taxable year thereafter.
- Expires certain property tax deductions allowed in current law and instead allows a credit against local property taxes in certain instances.
- Makes certain changes to the qualification requirements and credit amount for the over 65 circuit breaker credit.
- Provides a supplemental homestead tax credit for property taxes for a person's homestead if the person qualifies for a standard homestead deduction for the same homestead property.
- Provides that specified referendums may be placed on the ballot only at a general election.

- Amends the ballot language for controlled project, school operating, and school public safety referendums.
- Provides that a school corporation may not adopt a resolution to place a controlled project referendum on the ballot during the second calendar year after the final calendar year in which a previously approved controlled project referendum levy is imposed.
- Modifies the threshold amounts used for determining whether a political subdivision's project is a controlled project and whether the petition and remonstrance process or the referendum process applies based on the political subdivision's total debt service tax rate.
- Adds provisions to authorize a county fiscal body to adopt an ordinance to establish a property tax payment deferral program (program).
- Provides that a qualified individual participating in the program may defer the payment of part of the property taxes that would otherwise be due on a homestead.
- Provides that property taxes deferred under the program are due after the occurrence of a deferral termination event.
- Provides that the maximum amount of taxes that may be deferred cumulatively year over year may not exceed \$10,000. Increases, beginning in 2028, the maximum local income tax (LIT) expenditure rate for all counties to 2.9%.
- Authorizes a city or town to impose a municipal LIT rate beginning in 2028 not to exceed 1.2%.
- Provides that within a county's total expenditure rate, the county may adopt:
 - (1) Up to a 1.2% rate for county general purpose revenue;
 - (2) Up to a 0.4% rate for fire protection and emergency medical services;
 - (3) Up to a 0.2% rate for nonmunicipal civil taxing unit general purpose revenue; and
 - (4) Up to 1.2% for certain cities and towns that are not eligible to adopt a municipal LIT rate.
- Eliminates provisions that provide for a distribution of LIT expenditure rate revenue to schools and civil taxing units in counties that imposed a rate under the prior county adjusted gross income tax.
- Authorizes a county fiscal body to impose a local income tax expenditure rate to provide property tax relief for property tax liability attributable to homesteads in the county before January 1, 2028.
- Expires the authority to impose a property tax relief rate under the LIT and repeals the levy freeze rate.
- Provides that, in order to continue to impose an expenditure tax rate after 2027, each county must adopt a new ordinance on or before October 1, 2027, to impose the rate.
- Provides that, for counties that fail to adopt an ordinance to renew an existing expenditure tax rate in 2027, the expenditure tax rate for the county in 2028 shall be the minimum tax rate necessary for existing debt service.
- Specifies that this does not prevent the county from renewing, imposing, or modifying an expenditure tax rate in subsequent years.
- Eliminates local income tax councils beginning July 1, 2027, and instead provides that the county fiscal body is the adopting body in all counties for purposes of the county LIT, and the city or town fiscal body is the adopting body in the case of a municipal LIT.
- Establishes the state and local income tax holding account within the state general fund for purposes of LIT distributions.
- Requires the budget agency to maintain an accounting for each county imposing a county LIT based on annual returns filed by or for county taxpayers (same as current law).
- Requires undistributed amounts so accounted to be held for purposes of the state and local income tax holding account beginning after December 31, 2026. (Under current law, undistributed amounts are required to be held in reserve separate from the state general fund.)
- Requires the budget agency to present each December to the budget committee a report of the following:
 - (1) An estimate of the monthly certified distribution amounts for the immediately succeeding calendar year.
 - (2) A description of the method used to determine the monthly estimates.
- Beginning in 2028, requires the budget agency to make monthly transfers to the state and local income tax holding account of the amount determined for the month in the budget agency's report to the budget committee.
- Repeals a provision that requires the budget agency to adjust the certified distribution of a county for the succeeding year following a tax rate change.

- Requires the department to develop and maintain a property tax transparency portal through which taxpayers may:
 - (1) Compare the property tax liability in their current tax statement compared to their potential property tax liability based on changes under a proposed tax rate; and
 - (2) Provide taxpayer feedback to the department.
- Prohibits the northern Indiana commuter transportation district from issuing new bonds after May 9, 2025, that are payable in whole or in part from amounts distributed from the commuter rail service fund or the electric rail service fund.
- Requires all school corporations that adopt a resolution for an operating referendum tax levy that is imposed for the first time with property taxes first due and payable beginning after 2027 to share revenue with certain charter schools.
- Requires, beginning with distributions in 2028, that all school corporations begin sharing revenue from the school corporation's operations fund levy with certain charter schools.
- Provides for the phasing in of the sharing of revenue with certain charter schools from the school corporation's operations fund levy.
- Provides for the appointment of additional board members to the governing board of a charter school that receives property tax revenue.
- Sets forth additional procedures related to the closure of a charter school. Dissolves the Union School Corporation.
- Provides that for a fire protection territory established after January 1, 2025, each unit in a territory may not impose a tax rate that exceeds \$0.40 per \$100 of assessed valuation.
- Makes conforming changes.
- Makes technical corrections.
- Makes an appropriation.

SEA 3, P.L. 69 – FIDUCIARY DUTY IN HEALTH PLAN ADMINISTRATION

Author: Sen. Justin Busch (R-Fort Wayne)

Sponsor: Rep. Martin Carbaugh (R-Fort Wayne)

Policy Areas: Administration and Healthy Communities

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that any third party administrator or pharmacy benefit manager acting on behalf of a plan sponsor owes a fiduciary duty to the plan sponsor.

SEA 4, P.L. 99 – WATER MATTERS

Author: Sen. Eric Koch (R-Bedford)

Sponsor: Rep. Ed Soliday (R-Valparaiso)

Policy Areas: Environmental, Infrastructure and Transportation, and Utilities

Aim Comments

SEA 4 prohibits a water utility from constructing a long-haul water pipeline without obtaining a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) from the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC). Additionally, it sets forth requirements and standards that the IURC must ensure before granting a CPCN. SEA 4 was a priority bill for the Senate majority caucus. SEA 4 is in response to the Limitless Exploration Advanced Pace (LEAP) project proposed for Lebanon, Indiana. SEA 4 addresses protection of Indiana's water and puts public interest at the forefront of all decisions made regarding all water permits. Aim watched this bill throughout session ensuring municipalities were protected and maintained a voice throughout the conversations. Though SEA 4 was a priority bill for the Senate majority caucus, all legislators were united in their support for water protection and government transparency.

Summary of Provisions

- Prohibits a water utility from constructing a long haul water pipeline unless the water utility first obtains a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) from the Indiana utility regulatory commission (IURC).
- Sets forth specified information that an application for a CPCN must include.

- Sets forth specified findings that the IURC must make before granting a CPCN.
- Sets forth conditions under which a water utility may recover through rates the actual costs the water utility incurs in reliance on a CPCN issued by the IURC.
- Provides that a person that transfers, sells, or leases a long haul water pipeline must provide written notice to the IURC of the transfer, sale, or lease not later than 60 days after the transfer, sale, or lease is finalized.
- Prohibits a person that transfers or proposes to transfer:
 - (1) More than an annual average of 30,000,000 gallons of water per day out of a basin; or
 - (2) Water from a restricted use area; from transferring water out of a basin, or supplying water to another person that the person knows will transfer more than 100,000 gallons of water out of a basin, without first obtaining a transfer permit from the department of natural resources (department).
- Sets forth specified information that must be included in an application for a transfer permit.
- Provides that a transfer permit is required for an existing or ongoing interbasin transfer (as of July 1, 2025) if the existing or ongoing transfer exceeds the capacity of any system engaged in the interbasin transfer in any 90 day period.
- Provides that the department shall approve an application for a permit if the department determines that the transfer:
 - (1) Will not result in a perennial overdraft of a ground water resource or in a perennial stream flow depletion; and
 - (2) Is in the public interest, as described in the Indiana Code section concerning beneficial uses of Indiana's surface water resources.
- Provides that a transfer permit:
 - (1) Does not expire; and
 - (2) May be renewed, revoked, suspended, or modified in certain circumstances.
- Provides that the department may assess a civil penalty for violations of these provisions.

SEA 5, P.L. 182 – STATE FISCAL AND CONTRACTING MATTERS

Author: Sen. Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville)

Sponsor: Rep. Matt Lehman (R-Berne)

Policy Areas: Administration, Infrastructure and Transportation, and Municipal Finance

Aim Comments

The intent of SEA 5 is to improve transparency and accountability in state government. The legislature has heightened attention in this area following numerous fiscal challenges recently – one of them being a significant budgeting shortfall by a state agency, calling into question the use and care of taxpayer dollars by public officials. SEA 5 seeks to address concerns by establishing new contracting standards for state agencies, adjusting the appeal process, and modifying federal funding procedures (among other items).

The introduced version of the bill was amended in the Senate Appropriations Committee to include municipalities, as the bill author was seeking increased oversight in all public entities receiving state funding. Municipalities would have been charged with the same strict contract reporting and requirements as proposed for state government had the bill remained unchanged. Aim lobbied to remove the section involving municipalities and was successful as the bill was further amended in the House Ways and Means Committee. Now, SEA 5 is solely focused on state government oversight.

Summary of Provisions

- Allows a state agency to use artificial intelligence software to prepare information and projections for the state budget.
- Requires a state agency to provide a quarterly report to the budget committee that details the requests submitted by the state agency for new federal funds or to participate in a new federal program.
- Provides that, in addition to the quarterly reports, a state agency may not immediately accept an award of new federal funds in certain circumstances or participate in a new federal program before a report has been reviewed by the budget committee.
- Specifies the contents of the report that must be submitted for budget committee review.

- Requires a state agency to provide the state comptroller with a contract for inclusion in the Indiana transparency website not later than 30 days after the contract is fully executed.
- Requires that permanent full-time positions which have been vacant for 90 days or more be reviewed and either reauthorized or eliminated by the budget director.
- Requires the budget director to provide a quarterly report to the governor's office regarding those positions that were reauthorized or eliminated by the budget director in the preceding three months.
- Requires a state agency to provide quarterly reports to the budget committee regarding the state agency's active contracts.
- Provides for the reversion of funds appropriated to a state agency for expenses related to a contract that are unused after the end of the contract term.
- Requires the department of administration (department) to develop certain contract language to be included in state contracts of \$500,000 or more.
- Requires a state agency to provide a report to the budget committee concerning amendments to a contract that:
 - (1) Increase the maximum contract amount by not less than \$500,000; or
 - (2) For a contract with an initial maximum contract amount of not less than \$500,000, extend the term of the contract by not less than six months.
- Prohibits a state agency from entering into a nonpublic contract.
- Requires all contract opportunities of state agencies to be posted in the form of a request for proposals or a request for quotations on the department's website at least 30 days prior to the contract being awarded.
- Requires the office of the secretary of family and social services and the office of Medicaid policy and planning to do the following:
 - (1) Review monthly reports on the Medicaid program service utilization to identify trends and risks within the state Medicaid program.
 - (2) Post publicly on the office of the secretary of family and social services's website monthly financial reports or expenditures and revenues for each state Medicaid program and commentary providing context for each monthly financial report.
 - (3) Submit a quarterly report to the budget committee.

SEA 26, P.L. 183 – SIGNAL JAMMING

Author: Sen. Jim Tomes (R-Wadesville)

Sponsor: Rep. Cindy Ledbetter (R-Evansville)

Policy Areas: Criminal Code and Public Safety

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that a signal jammer may be seized. Provides that a person who knowingly or intentionally manufactures, offers for sale, imports, markets, sells, possesses, uses, or operates a signal jammer commits unlawful use of a signal jammer, a Level 6 felony.
- Provides that the offense is a Level 5 felony if a signal jammer is used to disrupt a component of a critical infrastructure facility or the communications of a public safety agency.
- Provides, for purposes of criminal statutes regarding offenses involving critical infrastructure, that a communications services facility includes wires and equipment used to provide communications service to a customer.

SEA 28, P.L. 71 – GROUND WATER EMERGENCIES

Author: Sen. Sue Glick (R-LaGrange)

Sponsor: Rep. Shane Lindauer (R-Jasper)

Policy Areas: Community and Economic Development, Environmental, Infrastructure and Transportation, and Utilities

Summary of Provisions

- Allows the owner or operator of a significant ground water withdrawal facility to file a complaint with the director of the department of natural resources (director) that a water well on the property of the

owner of the significant ground water withdrawal facility failed to furnish the well's normal supply of water or failed to furnish potable water.

- Requires the director to launch an investigation into a complaint of a well failure from a significant ground water withdrawal facility within three business days of the director receiving the complaint.
- Provides that the owner of a significant ground water withdrawal facility responsible for the failure or substantial impairment of a well shall provide timely and reasonable compensation to the owner of an impacted significant ground water withdrawal facility or nonsignificant ground water withdrawal facility.

SEA 43, P.L. 184 – STUDY OF LOCATION OF GAMBLING OPERATIONS

Author: Sen. Andy Zay (R-Huntington)

Sponsor: Rep. Ethan Manning (R-Logansport)

Policy Areas: Administration and Municipal Finance

Summary of Provisions

- Requires the Indiana gaming commission (commission) to contract with an independent, qualified gaming industry research firm to conduct a study to identify the top two regions in the state where an owner's license for a riverboat could locate gaming operations.
- Requires the commission to present the results of the study to the state budget committee not later than November 1, 2025.

SEA 74, P.L. 19 – EXTENSION OF LIFELINE LAW IMMUNITY

Author: Sen. Ron Alting (R-Lafayette)

Sponsor: Rep. Wendy McNamara (R-Evansville)

Policy Areas: Criminal Code, Healthy Communities, and Public Safety

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that an individual who is:
 - (1) Reasonably believed to be suffering from a health condition which is the direct result of alcohol consumption; and
 - (2) Assisted by a person who requested emergency medical assistance for the individual; is immune from prosecution for certain crimes.

SEA 95, P.L. 20 – LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COST REIMBURSEMENT

Author: Sen. Gary Byrne (R-Byrneville)

Sponsor: Rep. Steve Bartels (R-Eckerty)

Policy Areas: Municipal Finance and Public Safety

Aim Comments

SEA 95 was intended to offset the financial cost placed on municipalities regarding law enforcement training. The Aim membership expressed concerns about their public safety officers being hired by neighboring cities and towns. SEA 95 provides for the reimbursement for the costs of employing and training a law enforcement officer by a public employer that subsequently employs the officer. If the officer is hired by another public employer less than a year after their certification, 100% of the costs are reimbursable to the proceeding public employer. The reimbursement rate continues to drop annually for 3 years. Indiana State Police is covered under this bill. Aim is committed to supporting cities and towns in their public safety efforts. This bill sailed through session with no amendments and very little opposition.

Summary of Provisions

- Allows the state, a state agency, or a political subdivision (public employer) to be reimbursed for the costs of employing and training a law enforcement officer by a public employer that subsequently employs the officer.
- Provides that the reimbursement amount decreases over time and is eliminated three years after the officer is certified by the law enforcement training board to act as an officer.
- Allows a public employer to require, as a condition of hiring, that the individual enter into a contract

or agreement to reimburse the public employer for employment and training costs, if the individual is subsequently hired by a private or governmental employer that is not defined by statute as a public employer.

SEA 103, P.L. 187 – VEHICLE EMISSIONS

Author: Sen. Rick Niemeyer (R-Lowell)

Sponsor: Rep. Hal Slager (R-Schererville)

Policy Area: Administration

Summary of Provisions

- Requires IDEM to:
 - (1) Perform a comprehensive evaluation of ambient air quality within nonattainment areas in Indiana; and
 - (2) Identify air pollution reduction or regulatory relief strategies that could accomplish certain goals with respect to the federal Clean Air Act.

SEA 120, P.L. 44 – DNA SAMPLES AT TIME OF ARREST

Author: Sen. Mike Crider (R-Greenfield)

Sponsor: Rep. Wendy McNamara (R-Evansville)

Policy Area: Public Safety

Summary of Provisions

- Requires a sheriff to take a DNA sample of a person taken into custody for a felony. Provides that it is a Class C misdemeanor if a person refuses to provide a DNA sample to a sheriff.

SEA 127, P.L. 39 – BATTERY CHARGED SECURITY DEVICES

Author: Sen. Jim Buck (R-Kokomo)

Sponsor: Rep. Doug Miller (R-Elkhart)

Policy Areas: Administration and Innovation and Technology

Summary of Provisions

- Prohibits a county, city, or town from adopting or enforcing an ordinance or resolution that prohibits or imposes requirements on certain battery charged security devices.

SEA 141, P.L. 127 – EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURES

Author: Sen. Liz Brown (R-Fort Wayne)

Sponsor: Rep. Greg Steuerwald (R-Danville)

Policy Area: Public Safety

Summary of Provisions

- Establishes a procedure to be used by a law enforcement agency in conducting a lineup or in person witness identification.

SEA 143, P.L. 101 – PARENTAL RIGHTS

Author: Sen. Liz Brown (R-Fort Wayne)

Sponsor: Rep. Shane Lindauer (R-Jasper)

Policy Area: Administration

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that a governmental entity may not substantially burden certain parental rights unless the burden, as applied to the parent and the child, is required to advance a compelling governmental interest and is the least restrictive means of advancing the governmental interest.
- Prohibits a governmental entity from:
 - (1) Advising, directing, or coercing a child to withhold certain information from the child's parent; or
 - (2) Denying a child's parent access to certain information.

- Allows a parent to bring an action against a governmental entity for certain violations and provides for certain relief.
- Specifies that the parent of a child does not have a right to access certain medical care on behalf of the child if the child does not have an affirmative right of access to the medical care.

SEA 144, P.L. 21 – COUNTY POLICE FORCE PENSION TRUST AND TRUST FUND

Author: Sen. Vaneta Becker (R-Evansville)

Sponsor: Rep. Wendy McNamara (R-Evansville)

Policy Areas: Administration and Municipal Finance

Summary of Provisions

- Requires in a county other than Marion County, that the county police department or a designee of the county police department make an annual presentation regarding the county police force pension trust and trust fund to the county council.

SEA 151, P.L. 112 – STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

Author: Sen. Scott Alexander (R-Muncie)

Sponsor: Rep. Alex Zimmerman (R-North Vernon)

Policy Area: Criminal Code

Summary of Provisions

- Specifies that a prosecution for rape as a Level 3 felony that is barred by the statute of limitations may still be brought within 10 years from the discovery of DNA evidence.

SEA 157, P.L. 191 – PROTECTION OF PROPERTY RIGHTS

Author: Sen. Mike Gaskill (R-Pendleton)

Sponsor: Rep. Joanna King (R-Middlebury)

Policy Areas: Administration, Community and Economic Development, Healthy Communities, and Public Safety

Summary of Provisions

- Defines “squatter” as an individual who occupies the property of another and who does not have and has never had:
 - (1) A rental agreement;
 - (2) Permission of the owner; or
 - (3) Another legal interest in the property.
- Permits a property owner to execute an affidavit stating that a squatter is occupying the person’s property, and requires a law enforcement agency to dispatch one or more law enforcement officers to remove the squatter within 48 hours (or a later period if necessary for reasons of public safety).
- Provides that a property owner can execute an affidavit at the time a law enforcement officer responds to a complaint that a squatter is occupying the owner’s property.
- Requires a dispatched law enforcement officer to remove the squatter from the property unless the law enforcement officer discovers credible evidence that the person is not a squatter.
- Provides that a law enforcement agency may create a form affidavit.
- Provides certain immunities to a law enforcement agency and a law enforcement officer.
- Establishes a cause of action for wrongful removal from property.

SEA 159, P.L. 113 – PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING A WARRANT

Author: Sen. Aaron Freeman (R-Indianapolis)

Sponsor: Rep. Garrett Bascom (R-Lawrenceburg)

Policy Area: Courts

Summary of Provisions

- Specifies that a request for a warrant made orally by telephone, radio, or similar electronic means must be recorded and typed or transcribed. (Under current law, the judge is required to record the request, and the court reporter to type or transcribe it.)

- Permits certain warrant requests to be:
 - (1) Made electronically (where current law only allows this by radio or telephone); and
 - (2) Recorded electronically (where current law only permits the use of audio tape).
- Requires the prosecuting attorney and a law enforcement agency to maintain all requests for warrants, and to provide them to a defendant in discovery.

SEA 187, P.L. 73 – PTABOA APPOINTMENTS

Author: Sen. Dan Dernulc (R-Highland)

Sponsor: Rep. Julie Olthoff (R-Crown Point)

Policy Areas: Administration and Municipal Finance

Summary of Provisions

- Amends the eligibility requirements for service as a member on all county property tax assessment boards of appeal (PTABOA) to provide that any member appointed to the PTABOA must be a resident of Indiana for the entirety of the member's term.
- Provides that the term of an individual serving as a member on a PTABOA on June 30, 2025, who is not a resident of Indiana, expires July 1, 2025.
- Requires the appropriate county appointing authority to appoint the individual's successor.

SEA 198, P.L. 129 – CRIME OF SWATTING

Author: Sen. Aaron Freeman (R-Indianapolis)

Sponsor: Rep. Andrew Ireland (R-Indianapolis)

Policy Areas: Criminal Code and Public Safety

Summary of Provisions

- Specifies that, for purposes of the crime of false informing, hindering a "law enforcement process" includes causing a law enforcement officer to be dispatched.
- Enhances the penalty for making a false report that a person is dangerous to a Level 6 felony if the offense would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, or threatened.

SEA 211, P.L. 12 – CLEAN WATER INDIANA PROGRAM

Author: Sen. Sue Glick (R-LaGrange)

Sponsor: Rep. Dave Abbott (R-Rome City)

Policy Area: Environmental

Summary of Provisions

- Permits the use of funds from the clean water Indiana fund to manage invasive plant species.

SEA 218, P.L. 22 – ELECTRONIC MONITORING

Author: Sen. Brett Clark (R-Avon)

Sponsor: Rep. Wendy McNamara (R-Evansville)

Policy Area: Public Safety

Summary of Provisions

- Amends the information that must be provided by a supervising agency in quarterly reports to the local justice reinvestment advisory council.
- Requires the statewide justice reinvestment advisory council to compile the quarterly reports and electronically transmit an annual report to the legislative council and to the judicial conference of Indiana not later than May 1 (instead of March 15) of each year.

SEA 219, P.L. 23 – TRESPASS

Author: Sen. Brett Clark (R-Avon)

Sponsor: Rep. Craig Haggard (R-Mooresville)

Policy Areas: Criminal Code and Public Safety

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that a person who, not having a contractual interest in the property, knowingly or intentionally enters the real property of another person after having been denied entry by the other person, that person's agent, or a law enforcement officer acting on behalf of the other person or their agent, commits criminal trespass, a Class A misdemeanor.
- Provides that a person who, not having a contractual interest in the property, knowingly or intentionally refuses to leave the real property of another person after having been asked to leave by the other person, that person's agent, or a law enforcement officer acting on behalf of the other person or the other person's agent, commits criminal trespass, a Class A misdemeanor.

SEA 221, P.L. 40 – STATE COMPTROLLER

Author: Sen. Cyndi Carrasco (R-Indianapolis)

Sponsor: Rep. Greg Steuerwald (R-Danville)

Policy Area: Administration

Summary of Provisions

- Changes certain references from "auditor of state" to:
 - (1) "State comptroller (referred to as "auditor of state" in the Constitution of the State of Indiana)"; or
 - (2) "State comptroller (auditor of state)".
- Requires "state comptroller (auditor of state)" to be listed on the 2026 general election ballot.

SEA 259, P.L. 131 – LAW ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

Author: Sen. Ron Alting (R-Lafayette)

Sponsor: Rep. Garrett Bascom (R-Lawrenceburg)

Policy Area: Courts

Summary of Provisions

- Requires an affidavit for probable cause, or a person testifying at a probable cause hearing, to make certain disclosures relating to a possible conflict of interest.
- Specifies that a probable cause affidavit must be redacted under certain circumstances.
- Prohibits a law enforcement officer from directing, encouraging, or knowingly permitting a person who is not a law enforcement officer to question a person in custody under certain circumstances.

SEA 281, P.L. 77 – EXPUNGEMENT

Author: Sen. Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville)

Sponsor: Rep. Greg Steuerwald (R-Danville)

Policy Areas: Courts, Criminal Code, and Public Safety

Summary of Provisions

- Specifies that certain records relating to juvenile offenses are accessible to a law enforcement officer acting within the scope of the officer's duties and requires persons having custody of these records to take steps to ensure that these records are available in a timely manner.
- Specifies that the juvenile court shall cooperate to ensure that certain records are available to the prosecuting attorney or a deputy.
- Allows the expungement of official misconduct if:
 - (1) The person seeking the expungement is not an elected official; and
 - (2) The prosecuting attorney consents.
- Permits disclosure to the state police department of certain sealed records if disclosure is required for the purpose of expunging or marking as expunged records in the central repository for criminal history information.
- Prohibits expungement for a person convicted of unlawful possession of a firearm by a serious violent felon.
- Requires the office of judicial administration, before July 1, 2025, to establish an electronic system for transmitting a chronological case summary to the state police department for purposes of expungement.

- Prohibits the expungement of certain records of a person holding a commercial driver's license or permit.
- Makes certain expungement provisions that apply to elected officials also apply to elected or appointed judicial officers.

SEA 289, P.L. 196 – UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION

Author: Sen. Gary Byrne (R-Byrneville)

Sponsor: Rep. Chris Jeter (R-Fishers)

Policy Area: Administration

Summary of Provisions

- Repeals provisions concerning university diversity committees.
- Prohibits unlawful discrimination in education, public employment, and licensure.
- Allows participation in public contracts by a minority business enterprise, women's business enterprise, and veteran business enterprise, as currently authorized by law.
- Permits scholarships based on a personal characteristic of the recipient if the scholarship is not funded by state funds or resources, and permits the renewal of specified state funded minority teaching scholarships for those recipients who were initially awarded the scholarship before July 1, 2025.
- Changes the criteria for certain state funded teaching scholarships from minority status to residence in an underserved county and an agreement to teach in an underserved county.
- Prohibits requiring as a condition of licensure that a person affirm that a person with a certain personal characteristic:
 - (1) Is inherently superior or inferior to a person with a different personal characteristic;
 - (2) Should be blamed for actions committed in the past; or
 - (3) Has a moral character that is determined by a personal characteristic of the person.
- Prohibits a public employer from requiring training asserting that, or implementing the theory that, a person with a certain personal characteristic:
 - (1) Is inherently superior or inferior to a person with a different personal characteristic;
 - (2) Should be blamed for actions committed in the past; or
 - (3) Has a moral character that is determined by a personal characteristic of the person.
- Permits a person injured by a violation to bring a civil action for actual damages, court costs, and injunctive relief.

SEA 306, P.L. 78 – FILM AND MEDIA PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

Author: Sen. Andy Zay (R-Huntington)

Sponsor: Rep. Dave Heine (R-New Haven)

Policy Areas: Community and Economic Development and Municipal Finance

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that a taxpayer may assign any part of the film and media production tax credit (credit) that the taxpayer may claim. Sets forth the procedure for a taxpayer to make the assignment.
- Establishes a limit of \$250,000 for any single tax credit provided.
- Limits the aggregate amount of tax credits that may be provided to \$2,000,000.
- Extends the credit's expiration date from July 1, 2027, to July 1, 2031.

SEA 324, P.L. 197 – CRIMINAL PROCEDURES

Author: Sen. Aaron Freeman (R-Indianapolis)

Sponsor: Rep. Chris Jeter (R-Fishers)

Policy Area: Criminal Code

Summary of Provisions

- Increases the penalty levels of crimes related to fentanyl.
- Provides that a court shall consider requiring certain persons charged with a crime of domestic violence to wear a monitoring device as a condition of bail.
- Requires that a bail hearing for a violent arrestee or a repeat violent arrestee be held in open court and

provides that before releasing a violent arrestee or a repeat violent arrestee on bail the court must review the probable cause affidavit or arrest warrant and impose money bail payable by surety bond or cash deposit.

- Provides that in accordance with IC 27–10–2–4.5(g)(2), a charitable bail organization may not pay money bail on behalf of a violent arrestee or a repeat violent arrestee.
- Makes conforming changes.

SEA 351, P.L. 133 – MUNICIPAL PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Author: Sen. Mike Gaskill (R-Pendleton)

Sponsor: Rep. Ethan Lawson (R-Greenfield)

Policy Area: Administration

Summary of Provisions

- Allows a resident of the library district to be appointed to the parks and recreation board of a third class city or a town.

SEA 389, P.L. 79 – ANNEXATION OF FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TERRITORY

Author: Sen. Jim Buck (R-Kokomo)

Sponsor: Rep. Doug Miller (R-Elkhart)

Policy Areas: Administration, Community and Economic Development, Municipal Finance, and Public Safety

Summary of Provisions

- Provides the following with regard to certain annexations that include property within a fire protection district (district) for which the annexation ordinance was adopted on October 7, 2024, the annexed territory does not exceed 50 acres, and the annexed territory consists of vacant land and not more than one (1) residential property:
 - (1) The annexation is effective at least 30 days after the annexation ordinance is adopted, published, and filed with state and county officials. (Under current law, with certain exceptions, an annexation of property within a district takes effect the second January 1 after the ordinance is adopted and filed with state and county officials.)
 - (2) Exempts the municipality from provisions requiring the municipality to:
 - (A) Commence fire protection service to the annexed territory on the ordinance's effective date; and
 - (B) Notify the district within 10 days of commencing fire protection service to the annexed territory.

SEA 405, P.L. 136 – LABOR ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

Author: Sen. Linda Rogers (R-Granger)

Sponsor: Rep. Heath VanNatter (R-Kokomo)

Policy Area: Administration

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that if a governmental entity contracts with a private entity to manage or lease an asset owned by the governmental entity, the governmental entity may not require or consider, as a provision of the contract or as a condition of entering into the contract, that the employees of the private entity are members or nonmembers of a labor organization.

SEA 421, P.L. 9 – IURC MATTERS

Author: Sen. Eric Koch (R-Bedford)

Sponsor: Rep. Ed Soliday (R-Valparaiso)

Policy Areas: Administration and Utilities

Summary of Provisions

- Amends within the Indiana Code chapter governing publication procedures for political subdivisions the provision governing the publication of a notice of a hearing by the Indiana utility regulatory commission

(IURC) to reference the publication procedures for hearings set forth in the Indiana Code chapter governing the IURC.

- Amends the publication procedures within the statute governing the IURC to provide that if any newspaper of general circulation in which the IURC publishes a notice does not publish a print edition at least three times a week, the IURC may publish the notice in either:
 - (1) The print edition; or
 - (2) An electronic edition of the newspaper or a locality newspaper that circulates within the county.
- Adds a definition of “court reporter” to the Indiana Code chapter governing the regulation of utilities.
- Replaces references to a “stenographer” with references to a “court reporter” throughout that chapter and in other instances in the Indiana Code in which a “stenographer” or “reporter” is referenced in the context of an IURC proceeding.
- Repeals all remaining provisions in the Indiana Code chapter concerning alternative energy projects by rural electric membership corporations following the repeal by the general assembly in 2024 of other provisions in that chapter that established a fund to provide incentives under a program that is no longer operational.
- Increases the civil penalties for violations of the state statute or rules governing pipeline safety:
 - (1) From \$25,000 to \$200,000 per violation per day; and
 - (2) From \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000, for the maximum civil penalty for a related series of violations; so as to conform Indiana’s civil penalties with those prescribed by the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

SEA 425, P.L. 202 – ENERGY PRODUCTION ZONES

Author: Sen. Eric Koch (R-Bedford)

Sponsor: Rep. Ed Soliday (R-Valparaiso)

Policy Areas: Administration, Community and Economic Development, and Utilities

Aim Comments

SEA 425 began as an attempt to provide a streamlined process for siting large energy projects in Indiana. However, it evolved to include changes to zoning procedures generally. Specifically, the final vote on plan commission decisions will now be at the council level, a significant change in existing zoning procedures. This bill also allows units and developers to sign onto development agreements locking in their zoning approval for projects for up to 10 years.

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that a project owner is not required to apply for or receive a zoning permit (permit), or any other land use or zoning approval, from a local authority for the construction of a facility, other than a wind power device or commercial solar energy system, for the generation of electricity (electric generation facility) if:
 - (1) The Indiana utility regulatory commission (commission):
 - (A) Grants the project owner a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the construction; or
 - (B) Declines jurisdiction over the construction;
 - (2) The electric generation facility will be located on a premise of land on which there was located as of January 1, 2025:
 - (A) An existing electric generation facility with a generating capacity of at least 80 megawatts, regardless of whether the electric generation facility is operational; or
 - (B) A former surface or underground mine; and
 - (3) The project owner complies with specified notice and hearing requirements.
- Requires an applicant for a permit from a local authority to be given an extension of time if the applicant’s failure to meet the application deadline was caused by unforeseen circumstances beyond the applicant’s control.
- Provides that a deadline in an ordinance for commencing or completing a permitted use is tolled until two years after the conclusion of any litigation or regulatory proceeding regarding the granting of the permit.
- Sets deadlines for review of permit applications.

- Establishes requirements for development agreements.
- Provides that certain legal restrictions in effect at the time a permit is issued continue to apply unless the development is not completed within 10 years.
- Specifies that certain legal restrictions in effect at the time a development agreement is entered into apply for the period specified in the development agreement.
- Provides that the statute governing the approval of permits concerning zoning does not authorize the impairment of any vested right or abrogate any rights vested under common law.
- Specifies when land use rights are considered vested. Imposes other requirements upon the permit approval process.
- Authorizes a political subdivision or a local authority to prohibit, for a period of not more than one year, the siting, construction, installation, permitting, or deployment of a project (other than a project undertaken by specified entities) that involves the siting, construction, or deployment of facilities, equipment, or infrastructure used in the generation of electricity.
- Provides that a prohibition may not be extended or renewed for any length of time, regardless of when the prohibition first takes effect.
- Provides that after an advisory plan commission certifies a proposal to adopt, amend, or partially repeal the text of a zoning ordinance, the legislative body must take final action to adopt, amend, or reject the proposal. (Current law provides that after the legislative body acts on the proposal, the proposal returns to the plan commission for further proceedings.)

SEA 426, P.L. 24 – WATER UTILITIES

Author: Sen. Eric Koch (R-Bedford)

Sponsor: Rep. Ed Soliday (R-Valparaiso)

Policy Area: Utilities

Summary of Provisions

- Includes water utilities within the scope of the statute that subjects wastewater utilities that:
 - (1) Are not under the jurisdiction of the Indiana utility regulatory commission (IURC) for the approval of rates and charges; and
 - (2) Have been issued one or more enforcement orders by the department of environmental management; to a series of oversight actions by the IURC for each additional enforcement order, including rate review, rate regulation, and the initiation of a receivership proceeding.
- Makes a conforming amendment to the statute that governs the process by which water utilities and wastewater utilities may withdraw from the jurisdiction of the IURC.
- Amends the statute governing the acquisition of water utilities and wastewater utilities to require the IURC to consider and authorize mechanisms to allow utility companies to integrate into their systems, invest in, and earn on acquired utility assets, subject to a finding by the IURC that the proposed mechanism is just and reasonable and in the public interest.
- Amends the statute governing the recovery of costs for eligible infrastructure improvements made by water or wastewater utilities to provide that, in the case of a public utility (as defined in the Indiana Code), "infrastructure improvement costs" eligible for recovery include:
 - (1) Deferred depreciation expense; and
 - (2) Post in service carrying costs; for the eligible infrastructure improvements.
- Adds language to the Indiana Code chapter governing public water supplies to provide that a complaint:
 - (1) Seeking damages from a water utility; and
 - (2) Arising out of an alleged exposure to drinking water supplied by the water utility; is barred if the water supplied by the water utility met applicable regulatory standards under specified federal and state law.
- Amends the Indiana Code section prohibiting the department of natural resources (department) from regulating certain activities within the 100 year flood level of a water supply reservoir owned and operated by a municipality or a public utility for the purpose of providing water utility service to the public to also prohibit the department from ordering the closure or removal, or the partial closure or removal, of:
 - (1) A dam that forms such a water supply reservoir; or
 - (2) A dam that forms or contains a body of water that is used to supply one or more private water

wells; if the closure or removal, or the partial closure or removal, of the dam would impact the provision of water utility service to the public or the supply of water to one or more private water wells.

SEA 457, P.L. 25 – CARBON DIOXIDE SEQUESTRATION

Author: Sen. Sue Glick (R-LaGrange)

Sponsor: Rep. Ed Soliday (R-Valparaiso)

Policy Area: Environmental

Summary of Provisions

- Requires an applicant for a carbon dioxide transmission pipeline certificate to comply with certain guidelines adopted by the Indiana utility regulatory commission.
- Exempts a carbon dioxide transmission pipeline company (company) from obtaining a certificate of authority if the company's carbon dioxide transmission pipeline project meets certain criteria.
- Requires an applicant or the contractor or subcontractor of the applicant to submit evidence that the contractor or subcontractor of the applicant have the requisite experience constructing, operating, and maintaining a transmission pipeline for the department to grant the applicant a carbon dioxide transmission pipeline certificate of authority.
- Moves fee revenue collected for a carbon dioxide transmission pipeline certificate of authority from the oil and gas environmental fund to the state general fund.
- Provides that the filing fee for a permit for a carbon sequestration project is deposited in the state general fund.
- Provides that an involuntary integration order issued by the department of natural resources (department) is effective 15 days after the petitioner is issued a UIC Class VI permit.
- Amends the definition of "UIC Class VI permit".
- Adjusts the filing fee for a carbon sequestration project permit.
- Requires a storage operator to pay the department a fee of \$0.08 per metric ton of carbon dioxide injected into a storage facility for the previous calendar year.
- Provides that a storage operator shall pay to the department a fee for the carbon dioxide injected into the storage facility.
- Expires the carbon dioxide storage facility trust fund and provides for the transfer of money in that fund to the state general fund.
- Directs the department to establish and issue a permit that allows a person to:
 - (1) Drill or operate a carbon dioxide investigatory well; or
 - (2) Convert an oil and gas well for use in carbon dioxide investigations.
- Describes circumstances in which the department may enter property to inspect and maintain a well or storage facility.
- Establishes civil penalties for violations of the statutes regulating carbon sequestration.
- Provides that civil penalties are deposited in the state general fund.

SEA 459, P.L. 139 – ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Author: Sen. Rick Niemeyer (R-Lowell)

Sponsor: Rep. Beau Baird (R-Greencastle)

Policy Areas: Environmental and Innovation and Technology

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that the environmental rules board may adopt rules establishing requirements for the reclamation and reuse of treated wastewater.
- Requires certain entities to:
 - (1) Conduct an annual public water system cybersecurity vulnerability assessment;
 - (2) Annually provide the office of technology with the name and contact information of any individual who will act as the primary reporter of a cybersecurity incident;
 - (3) Submit an annual certification to the department of environmental management via a secured portal verifying certain information; and
 - (4) When an actual or suspected cybersecurity breach occurs, report the incident to the office of technology.

SEA 472, P.L. 142 – CYBERSECURITY

Author: Sen. Liz Brown (R-Fort Wayne)

Sponsor: Rep. Matt Lehman (R-Berne)

Policy Areas: Administration and Innovation and Technology

Summary of Provisions

- Requires political subdivisions, state agencies, school corporations, and state educational institutions (public entities), with the exception of specified categories of hospitals and the Indianapolis department of public utilities (department), to adopt not later than December 31, 2027, a:
 - (1) Technology resources policy; and
 - (2) Cybersecurity policy; that meet specified requirements.
- Provides the department is not required to report a cybersecurity incident to the office of technology (office).
- Requires the office to develop:
 - (1) Standards and guidelines regarding cybersecurity for use by political subdivisions and state educational institutions; and
 - (2) A uniform cybersecurity policy for use by state agencies.
- Requires the office to develop, in collaboration with the department of education:
 - (1) A uniform technology resources policy governing use of technology resources by the employees of school corporations; and
 - (2) A uniform cybersecurity policy for use by school corporations.
- Requires:
 - (1) A public entity to biennially submit to the office the cybersecurity policy adopted by the public entity; and
 - (2) The office to establish a procedure for collecting and maintaining a record of submitted cybersecurity policies.
- Requires a public entity that engages a third party to conduct an assessment of the public entity's cybersecurity policy to provide the results of the assessment to the office.

SEA 477, P.L. 14 – LOW HEAD DAMS

Author: Sen. Justin Busch (R-Fort Wayne)

Sponsor: Rep. Ethan Manning (R-Logansport)

Policy Areas: Environmental and Public Safety

Summary of Provisions

- Provides that the state does not assume ownership of or responsibility for a low head dam that is not listed as owned by the state on the department of natural resources' (department) low head dam roster (roster).
- Permits a person to remove without a permit certain low head dams that are located on a navigable waterway and that are encroachments.
- Requires the department to establish warning sign standards and requirements for low head dams that are on the roster.
- Allows for a bond of \$1,000,000 to serve as proof of financial responsibility for a person that owns a low head dam.
- Provides that a permit issued by the director after January 1, 2021, for the removal of a low head dam does not expire until two years after certain judicial appeal processes are complete.

SEA 491, P.L. 103 – ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY FOR AN INDUSTRIAL PARK

Author: Sen. Mike Gaskill (R-Pendleton)

Sponsor: Rep. Elizabeth Rowray (R-Muncie)

Policy Areas: Community and Economic Development, Infrastructure and Transportation, and Utilities

Summary of Provisions

- Allows the city of Alexandria in Madison County to annex noncontiguous property for use as an industrial park.

SEA 502, P.L. 209 – ATTACHMENTS TO UTILITY POLES

Author: Sen. Andy Zay (R-Huntington)

Sponsor: Rep. Dale DeVon (R-Granger)

Policy Areas: Administration and Infrastructure and Transportation

Summary of Provisions

- Defines an “attachment request” as a request made:
 - (1) By an attaching entity, other than an electricity supplier, to the owner (pole owner) of an electric distribution pole (pole) for authorization to install, within a period of not more than 30 days, communications service equipment on 300 or more poles owned by the pole owner; and
 - (2) In connection with, and using funds obtained from, a state or federal program directly related to the expansion of communications services to unserved, underserved, or rural areas (program).
- Defines a “process management agreement” as a written agreement entered into by:
 - (1) An attaching entity that has been awarded funding under a program; and
 - (2) A pole owner that owns at least 300 poles with respect to which the attaching entity intends to submit an attachment request in connection with a project under the program; for the purpose of establishing processes, timelines, mutual performance obligations, and conflict resolution options for timely completing attachment requests.
- Provides that not later than five business days after the execution of a contract that:
 - (1) Is entered into by an attaching entity and a governmental agency; and
 - (2) Sets forth the terms and conditions for a project for which funding has been awarded under a program; the Indiana broadband office (office) shall publish the contract on the office’s website.
- Provides that not later than 60 days after a contract is executed:
 - (1) The attaching entity that executed the contract; and
 - (2) Each pole owner that owns at least 300 poles with respect to which the attaching entity intends to submit an attachment request in connection with a project under the program; shall hold a meeting for the purpose of discussing general project plans.
- Provides that not later than four months after the National Telecommunications Information Administration approves the office’s final proposal for funding under the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program, if an attaching entity that has been awarded funding under a program does not have a process management agreement in effect with a pole owner that owns at least 300 poles with respect to which the attaching entity intends to submit an attachment request in connection with a project under the program, the attaching entity and the pole owner shall negotiate an agreement that sets forth specified processes, timelines, mutual performance obligations, and conflict resolution options.
- Provides that if the attaching entity and a pole owner do not reach an agreement as to the terms, conditions, and timelines for a process management agreement, or otherwise have the prescribed negotiated agreement in effect, within the required four month period, certain conditions apply with respect to the dealings between the attaching entity and the pole owner with respect to any application for a pole attachment permit that does not seek the attachment of more than 3,000 poles within a period of not more than 30 days.
- Authorizes the office to adopt a rapid response mediation process to be followed if a dispute arises between an attaching entity and a pole owner regarding the processes and timelines for the timely completion of an attachment request.
- Provides that these provisions expire July 1, 2030.

SEA 505, P.L. 210 – EMERGENCY TRANSPORT TO APPROPRIATE FACILITY

Author: Sen. Spencer Deery (R-West Lafayette)

Sponsor: Rep. Lori Goss-Reeves (R-Marion)

Policy Areas: Healthy Communities, Public Safety, and Utilities

Summary of Provisions

- Allows, subject to a written agreement concerning the transport of individuals, an emergency medical responder, an emergency medical technician, an advanced emergency medical technician, or a paramedic (emergency medical services personnel) to transport an individual to:

- (1) A health care facility;
- (2) A mental health facility; or
- (3) An urgent care facility; that can provide the individual with appropriate and necessary treatment.
- Specifies information that must be included in a written agreement.
- Allows reimbursement for transporting the individual to the facility.

SEA 516, P.L. 145 – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Author: Sen. Brian Buchanan (R-Lebanon)

Sponsor: Rep. Danny Lopez (R-Carmel)

Policy Areas: Administration, Community and Economic Development, and Municipal Finance

Summary of Provisions

- Establishes the office of entrepreneurship and innovation (office).
- Specifies the duties of the office.
- Transfers oversight responsibilities of certified technology parks from the Indiana economic development corporation (IEDC) to the office.
- Provides for the submission of an annual report of the activities of an innovation development district as to financial information pertaining to tax increment financing districts in an innovation development district to the:
 - (1) Fiscal body of the county, city, or town; and
 - (2) Department of local government finance.
- Provides that before the IEDC may purchase land in a county that in total exceeds 100 acres whether acquired in one transaction or a series of transactions, the IEDC must first give notice, in writing, to the board of county commissioners of the county in which the land is located (and to the mayor of a city if the land is located within a city) not later than 30 days before the closing date for the purchase or purchases.
- Requires the IEDC to provide to the budget committee a copy of the notice being provided to the local unit in which certain land is being purchased.
- Provides that if the IEDC extends an offer to one or more voting or nonvoting members of the budget committee to tour a potential economic development site that may receive state assistance in undertaking the project, the IEDC shall simultaneously extend the same offer to all voting and nonvoting members of the budget committee.
- Requires the governor to appoint the president of the IEDC, who shall serve at the pleasure of the governor and report to the secretary of commerce. (Under current law, the secretary of commerce is the president of the IEDC.)
- Repeals the statute that expires the central Indiana regional development authority.

SEA 524, P.L. 43 – THE PRACTICE OF LAW

Author: Sen. Cyndi Carrasco (R-Indianapolis)

Sponsor: Rep. Jennifer Meltzer (R-Shelbyville)

Policy Area: Administration

Summary of Provisions

- Allows an Indiana resident of a contiguous county to be appointed the head of the department of law.

SEA 525, P.L. 211 – ANNEXATION

Author: Sen. Cyndi Carrasco (R-Indianapolis)

Sponsor: Rep. Andrew Ireland (R-Indianapolis)

Policy Areas: Administration and Community and Economic Development

Aim Comments

SEA 525 is one of many conversations regarding annexation that took place within the 2025 legislative session. Formerly HB 1472, this concept allows a voluntary annexation to take place surrounding a residential development in Plainfield. The House version of this bill moved seamlessly through the first half of session, but when the time came for a committee hearing in the Senate Local Government committee, HB 1472 did not

progress forward. The following weeks were challenging as stakeholders attempted to find another home for the language, which ultimately landed in SEA 525 in the final days of session.

Aim worked tirelessly throughout session to stop the negative annexation bills from moving forward and were successful on all fronts. Within those conversations, the legislative team was also able to garner support from key legislators concerning the expansion of the annexation language surrounding residential development to take effect statewide, rather than special legislation aimed at specific communities. While the attempt was unsuccessful this year, we believe we moved the needle in a positive direction for both future conversations to residential development annexation and also systematic tweaks to the general process overall.

Summary of Provisions

- Allows the Town of Plainfield in Hendricks County (town) to annex a noncontiguous residential development that meets certain requirements.
- Provides that the annexation is initiated by:
 - (1) The homeowner's association board petitioning the town legislative body for annexation of the residential development; and
 - (2) The town legislative body adopting a resolution approving initiation of the annexation process.
- Provides that the town may not do the following:
 - (1) Use the annexation territory to annex additional territory.
 - (2) Annex additional territory within the unincorporated area extending 1/2 mile from the boundaries of the annexation territory, unless the annexation is with the consent of all of the landowners within the area to be annexed.
 - (3) Annex, under any type of annexation, within the area that extends from the boundary of the 1/2 mile area to the town.
- Provides that the town's redevelopment commission may only enact a housing tax increment financing district in Liberty Township in Hendricks County if the district is approved by a resolution passed by the Mill Creek School Corporation.

SJR 17, P.L. 245 – STATE COMPTROLLER

Author: Sen. Cyndi Carrasco (R-Indianapolis)

Sponsor: Rep. Greg Steuerwald (R-Danville)

Policy Area: Administration

Summary of Provisions

- Proposes an amendment to the Indiana Constitution to do the following:
 - (1) Require the election of a state comptroller instead of an auditor of state.
 - (2) Provide, effective June 30, 2023, that an individual serving as auditor of state after June 30, 2023, is considered to be serving as state comptroller for all purposes under the Indiana Constitution and Indiana law.
- This proposed amendment has not been previously agreed to by a general assembly.



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ORGANIZED

BY POLICY

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**The purpose of Aim shall be to foster, promote and advocate
for the success of Hoosier Municipalities as laboratories of innovation,
hubs of talent, and the engines driving our state's economy.**

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