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4100 Edison Lakes Parkway, Suite 100

Mishawaka, Indiana 46545

Phone: (574) 243-4100

Fax: (574) 232-9789

www.maylorber.com

Statehouse Report

JANUARY 28, 2010

Both houses of the General Assembly are still hearing bills in their originating chambers. The deadline for committee reports to be adopted is Thursday, January 27, 2010; February 3, 2010 is the deadline for bills to pass their originating bodies.

After the February 3 midway point, bills that have passed the House will be assigned to Senate committees, and bills that have passed the Senate will be assigned to House committees.

Statewide smoking ban

[HB 1131](#), a bill written to ban smoking in most public places in Indiana, was withdrawn from consideration by its author after the House voted to include several additional exceptions to the ban. The legislation passed out of committee as a comprehensive ban on smoking in public places, with an exception included to exempt casinos from the proposed law.

However, as the bill was being considered for amendments on the House floor, several additional exceptions were added in for bars and tobacco shops. After the two amendments were added, the author withdrew the bill from consideration.

The legislation could be brought back for consideration while the Legislature remains in session. Currently, 27 states have a similar statewide ban on smoking in public places.

State of the State/State of the Judiciary

Governor Daniels and Chief Justice Shepard both delivered their annual addresses to joint sessions of the Indiana General Assembly last week. A video and the full text of the Governor's State of the State can be found [here](#), and the full text of the Chief Justice's State of the Judiciary can be found [here](#).

Firearms bills

Two bills dealing with firearms have passed the House of Representatives. [HB 1065](#) passed by a vote of [76-21](#), and would make illegal any attempt by an employer to prohibit an employee from keeping a firearm in his/her locked vehicle on company property. The bill also would prohibit the government from placing any restrictions on the lawful possession, transfer, sale, transportation, storage, display, or use of firearms or ammunition during a declared emergency.

[HB 1068](#), which passed by a vote of [85-11](#), makes confidential any identifying information contained in public records relating to individuals who have a permit to carry a handgun.

Casinos

[SB 405](#) originally would have allowed riverboat casinos to convert to land-based operations upon payment of a \$50 million fee. However, a Senate committee recently amended the bill to remove that provision, and instead simply allow riverboat casinos to eliminate their navigational equipment and marine crews. The issue will remain an active topic of discussion as the bill moves through the legislative process this session.

Bills of interest

Below are lists of some bills of interest that have recently passed out of the House and Senate. Please note that these lists are not comprehensive.

Bills of interest that have passed the House

- [HB 1008](#) - Purchase of out-of-state service credit.
- [HB 1030](#) - Local government reorganization.
- [HB 1034](#) - Bankruptcy exemptions.
- [HB 1059](#) - Property tax collections.
- [HB 1061](#) - County identification security protection fee.
- [HB 1062](#) - Uniform enforcement of foreign judgments act.
- [HB 1065](#) - Various provisions concerning firearms.
- [HB 1068](#) - Access to handgun license information.
- [HB 1069](#) - Commuter transportation district board membership.
- [HB 1075](#) - Public access issues.
- [HB 1078](#) - Vehicle matters.
- [HB 1083](#) - Unclaimed property.
- [HB 1099](#) - Standards for livestock and poultry care.
- [HB 1100](#) - Inmate possession of a cellular device prohibited.
- [HB 1111](#) - Veteran matters.
- [HB 1132](#) - Indiana check-up plan trust fund interest.
- [HB 1145](#) - Property tax exemption application filing.
- [HB 1164](#) - Emergency management.
- [HB 1165](#) - Exempt veterans' benefits from attachment.
- [HB 1175](#) - Use of mini-trucks.
- [HB 1178](#) - Returning National Guard.
- [HB 1186](#) - Interlocal agreements concerning courts.
- [HB 1183](#) - Tax sale surplus fund agreements.
- [HB 1188](#) - Various vehicle matters.
- [HB 1193](#) - Juvenile, education, and law enforcement matters.
- [HB 1194](#) - Public safety officer layoff and reinstatement.
- [HB 1230](#) - Grain buyers and grain indemnity program.
- [HB 1234](#) - No contact orders.
- [HB 1235](#) - Regulation of appraisal management companies.

Bills of interest that have passed the Senate

- [SB 003](#) - Bank branches in or near retail merchants.
- [SB 006](#) - Credit agreements.
- [SB 025](#) - Firearms in locked vehicles.
- [SB 030](#) - PERF and TRF benefits.
- [SB 031](#) - Motorcycle handlebar height.
- [SB 057](#) - Local public question on county zoning.
- [SB 059](#) - Grandparent and great-grandparent visitation.
- [SB 062](#) - Removal of FSSA expiration dates.
- [SB 064](#) - Display of political signs.
- [SB 065](#) - Guardianships.
- [SB 067](#) - Trust matters.
- [SB 071](#) - Unlawful termination of pregnancy.
- [SB 072](#) - PERF and TRF benefit determination review.
- [SB 073](#) - Railroad flaggers and vehicle operation.
- [SB 074](#) - Federal regulation of commercial driver's license.
- [SB 075](#) - Sunday carryout by microbreweries.
- [SB 081](#) - Criminal law and sentencing policy study committee.
- [SB 098](#) - Pension fund administered by PERF.
- [SB 103](#) - Military matters.
- [SB 110](#) - Conservancy district elections.
- [SB 126](#) - Merger of rural electric and telephone cooperatives.
- [SB 128](#) - Emergency management.
- [SB 134](#) - Noncode statutes.
- [SB 161](#) - Type II gaming.
- [SB 186](#) - Transportation of radioactive materials.
- [SB 187](#) - Indiana intelligence fusion center.
- [SB 190](#) - Discriminatory practice definition.
- [SB 250](#) - Streamlined sales and use tax agreement.
- [SB 401](#) - Petitioners and remonstrators for local debt.

How to track legislative action.

The [web page for the Indiana General Assembly](#) is a free resource for the public that provides some helpful tools to follow the progress of legislative action during the session. You can [find out how to contact your legislator](#), read [all of the filed bills](#), and search the [Indiana Constitution, Indiana Code, and Indiana Register](#).

You can also watch live streaming video of the legislature while it is in session, as well as some committee meetings [here](#).

The regularly updated House and Senate Committee schedules are also available online, and contain links to legislation up for consideration in committee.

[House Committee Schedule](#)

[Senate Committee Schedule](#)