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## Statehouse Report

### FEBRUARY 11, 2010

The General Assembly has reached the midway point of the 2010 legislative session. Any bills still active have passed their house of origin and been sent to the opposite chamber. Over the next two weeks, the House and Senate will consider the other chamber's bills in the second phase of the legislative process.

Each chamber will again hear bills in committee and vote on those that make it through. Then they will begin the conference committee process – which consists of bi-cameral committees to resolve any differences between versions of bills that have passed both chambers.

Information on how to access committee schedules and floor vote calendars is available at the end of this report.

#### Statewide smoking ban

A bill written to implement a statewide smoking ban passed the House by a vote of [73-26](#) last week. However, the Senate President Pro Tem has stated that [HB 1131](#) will not be given a hearing in the Senate.

The bill that passed the House was amended to include several exemptions for establishments such as bars, casinos, and private clubs. But the announcement from the Senate leader means the issue is effectively dead for the session.

#### Texting while driving

Currently, anyone under 18 years old is prohibited by law from texting while operating a motor vehicle in Indiana. But, [HB 1279](#) proposes to expand the prohibition to drivers of every age. The bill passed the House by a vote of [95-3](#).

#### School start date

A bill to create a post-Labor Day statewide start date for schools passed the Senate by a vote of [31-19](#). [SB 150](#) would require the school year to start on the Tuesday after the first Monday in September (Labor Day) and end by June 10 of the following year, beginning with the 2012-2013 school year.

#### Local government reforms

Municipal and county employees would be prohibited from seeking election to the city and county councils that oversee them, under [SB 241](#), which passed the Senate by a vote of [28-22](#). However the legislation would grandfather in any current public employees who hold local elective office.

The bill also seeks to bar nepotism in local government, move school board elections from the May primary to the November general election, and establishes a method for counties to shift from a three-member board of commissioners to a single county executive.

## Unemployment

An increase in the unemployment insurance rate schedule for 2010 would be delayed for a year under [SB 23](#), which passed the Senate by a vote of [33-17](#). The new rates were intended to make up the shortfall in the fund, which has been paying out more than it takes in for several years.

As of January 2010, Indiana has been forced to borrow \$1.5 billion from the federal government in order to continue to pay unemployment benefits. However, Indiana is not the only state in this predicament – 26 states have borrowed a total of \$27 billion to cover their collective unemployment fund shortfalls.

## 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. If you wish to access a full list of all bills still alive, it is available [here](#) (active bills are in bold).

### Bills of interest that have passed the House

- [HB 1047](#) - Change of name requirements.
- [HB 1048](#) - Property tax deductions for contract purchasers.
- [HB 1050](#) - Police officers' and firefighters' 1977 pension and disability fund.
- [HB 1055](#) - Grandparent and great-grandparent visitation.
- [HB 1063](#) - Energy efficient buildings.
- [HB 1073](#) - Termination of residential leases.
- [HB 1084](#) - Various motor vehicle matters.
- [HB 1085](#) - Termination of parent-child relationship; CHINS.
- [HB 1094](#) - Net metering.
- [HB 1116](#) - Worker's compensation.
- [HB 1122](#) - Abatement of vacant or abandoned structures.
- [HB 1125](#) - Highway matters.
- [HB 1131](#) - Smoking ban in public places.
- [HB 1142](#) - Agricultural matters.
- [HB 1163](#) - Expungement of records of certain convictions.
- [HB 1168](#) - High school athletics.
- [HB 1182](#) - Complete streets guidelines.
- [HB 1198](#) - Criminal conversion of leased motor vehicles.
- [HB 1206](#) - Five star mortgages.
- [HB 1226](#) - Health and Medicaid fraud matters.
- [HB 1232](#) - Removal of logjams in floodways.
- [HB 1240](#) - Various insurance matters.
- [HB 1241](#) - Aircraft registration and airport development zones.
- [HB 1250](#) - Capital access program.
- [HB 1255](#) - Proof of collateral source payments.
- [HB 1258](#) - Animal regulation.
- [HB 1279](#) - Texting while driving.
- [HB 1317](#) - Use of money in city or town fund.
- [HB 1324](#) - Disposal of vacant lots in tax sale process.
- [HB 1332](#) - Credit services and real estate transactions.
- [HB 1335](#) - Rights of publicity.
- [HB 1336](#) - State investment in aggressive lenders.
- [HB 1350](#) - Uniform acts concerning civil procedure.
- [HB 1367](#) - Education matters.

## **Bills of interest that have passed the Senate**

- [SB 13](#) - Definition of marriage.
- [SB 23](#) - Unemployment contribution rates.
- [SB 29](#) - County clerk liability.
- [SB 63](#) - Civil penalties for certain disclaimers.
- [SB 87](#) - Suspensions or terminations of EMS personnel.
- [SB 92](#) - Land surveyors.
- [SB 93](#) - Yield to stationary utility service vehicles.
- [SB 114](#) - Government ethics.
- [SB 115](#) - Eminent domain for carbon dioxide pipeline.
- [SB 117](#) - Unfair practices of vehicle dealers' franchises.
- [SB 119](#) - Alcohol sale hours on Sunday.
- [SB 127](#) - Underground storage tank corrective action.
- [SB 129](#) - Contracts for dental services.
- [SB 140](#) - Adoption matters.
- [SB 150](#) - School year; calendar flexibility.
- [SB 163](#) - Various child support matters.
- [SB 168](#) - Various ethics and inspector general matters.
- [SB 170](#) - Limited access facilities.
- [SB 175](#) - Various health matters.
- [SB 176](#) - Nonparticipating tobacco product manufacturers.
- [SB 178](#) - Custody and parenting time matters.
- [SB 195](#) - Access to handgun license information.
- [SB 209](#) - Environmental issues.
- [SB 212](#) - Public library matters.
- [SB 223](#) - Mortgage deduction.
- [SB 236](#) - State tax matters.
- [SB 238](#) - Public depositories.
- [SB 239](#) - Property tax matters.
- [SB 240](#) - Township government.
- [SB 241](#) - Local government issues.
- [SB 254](#) - Voluntary audits by health facilities.
- [SB 282](#) - Storm water management.
- [SB 290](#) - Probation.
- [SB 299](#) - Agricultural biomass infrastructure grants.
- [SB 301](#) - Natural resources public works projects.
- [SB 313](#) - Net metering.
- [SB 328](#) - Various financial institutions matters.
- [SB 335](#) - Tax sale procedures.
- [SB 337](#) - Local government merger and cooperation.
- [SB 356](#) - Professional licensing.
- [SB 357](#) - Insurance matters.
- [SB 382](#) - Illiana Expressway.
- [SB 384](#) - Cloud computing security.
- [SB 394](#) - Attorney general matters.
- [SB 396](#) - Agricultural land assessment.
- [SB 405](#) - Gaming matters.
- [SB 417](#) - Contract, arbitration, and ADR validity.

**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](#)



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