

Governor Mike Pence (R-Columbus) held his third State of the State address this past Tuesday night. While some national media pundits watched the speech intently, hoping to pick up on cues that he may have national ambitions in 2016, Governor Pence focused most of his speech on issues facing Indiana. The Governor continued to press the General Assembly on his main legislative priorities which include enacting further education reforms such as lifting the cap on vouchers, and increasing the per pupil funding for charter school students. However, there was one surprise for the night, and added some fuel to the fire of speculation about a possible Pence Presidential run. Governor Pence proposed the General Assembly pass a constitutional balanced budget amendment. The Governor said Hoosiers should never be burdened by debt of future Assembly's and Governors. Critics were fast to question the proposal. Under the Indiana Constitution, the State is prohibited from taking on debt, except for limited circumstances. The amendment even received a lukewarm reception by Republican leaders in both Chambers. Odds are the amendment will receive a hearing some point this session, but the likelihood of passage is still up in the air.

The General Assembly will not convene on Monday, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. All activities will resume on Tuesday.

Here are some upcoming deadlines for the 2015 Session.

- Wednesday, February 25th – Last day for 3rd Reading of Senate bills in the Senate
- Wednesday, February 25th – Last day for 3rd Reading of House bills in the House
- Wednesday, April 15th – Last day for 3rd Reading of House bills in the Senate
- Wednesday, April 15th – Last day for 3rd Reading of Senate bills in the House
- Wednesday, April 29th – Last day for adjournment (Sine Die)

Below is a summary of actions taken on this week on key bills included in your Bill Track list:

- **SB 037 (Possession of Paraphernalia)** – Heard Tuesday in the Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee, and was passed with an amendment.
- **SB 193 (Northwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy)** – Heard Tuesday in the Senate Homeland Security and Transportation Committee and was passed without an amendment.
- **SB 265 (Purchase of 1977 Fund Service)** – Heard Wednesday in the Senate Pensions and Labor Committee, and was passed.

As is our policy, we have attached an updated Bill Track List, with bills that are of an interest to you. We are still receiving bills from both Chambers. The attached list is not a final representative list.

If you would like to see a full copy of any bill, please visit

<https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2015/bills/>

or let us know if you would like for us to furnish you with a hard copy of a particular bill. As you review the bills, please let us know of any questions or comments you have with the legislation that we may not be aware of.