

One of the higher profile bills this session advanced in the Senate Public Policy Committee on Wednesday afternoon. Indiana's gaming industry has seen a severe decline in revenue due to the increased competition of new gaming facilities in neighboring states. An interim study committee met and made numerous recommendations late last year to the General Assembly for the upcoming session. In the meantime, both Governor Pence and key leaders in both Chambers expressed concern over any new change in the State's laws that would be perceived as an expansion in gaming. House Bill 1540 (Various Gaming Issues) authored by Representative Tom Dermody (R-LaPorte) carried all of the recommendations from the summer study committee. The House made significant changes to the bill throughout the process. After HB 1540 passed the House, two of the main provisions in the bill allowed riverboat gaming facilities to move on land to adjacent properties, and would also allow the State's two racinos to have live table dealers. Questions remained if those two issues alone were perceived as expansion of gaming by Governor Pence. The Senate Public Policy Committee passed the bill unanimously out of committee without any amendments.

Here are some upcoming deadlines for the 2015 Session.

- Thursday, April 9th – Committee Report Deadline for Senate Bills in the House
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- Wednesday, April 15th – Last day for 3rd Reading of House bills in the Senate
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- 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:

- HB 1006 (Criminal Justice Funding) – Heard Wednesday in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and was passed with an amendment.
- HB 1150 (Police and Firefighter Retirement Matters) – Ordered to Engrossment on the bill's 2nd Reading.
- HB 1393 (Various Motor Vehicle Matters) – Heard Tuesday in the Senate Homeland Security and Transportation Committee, and was passed with an amendment.
- HB 1475 (Statewide 911 System) – Heard Tuesday in the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee, and was passed with an amendment.
- SB 035 (Speed Limits in School Zones) – Heard Wednesday in the House Roads and Transportation Committee, and was passed with an amendment.
- SB 193 (Northwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy) – Ordered to Engrossment on the bill's 2nd Reading.
- SB 265 (Purchase of Service Credit) – Ordered to Engrossment on the bill's 2nd Reading.
- SB 289 (Confidential Victim Services Requests) – Passed the House on the bill's 3rd Reading.

The following bills on your Bill Track list are scheduled for a committee hearing next week:

- HB 1242 (Reserve Officer Training) – Scheduled to be heard on Tuesday in the Senate Homeland Security and Transportation Committee.
- SB 380 (Crisis Intervention Teams) – Scheduled to be heard on Tuesday in the House Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee.

As is our policy, we have attached an updated Bill Track List, with bills that are of an interest to you.

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.