

The Senate released the first version of their budget on Thursday morning. Senate Appropriations Chairman Luke Kenley (R-Noblesville) offered a 214 page amendment that was adopted by the committee into House Bill 1001 (State Biennial Budget). Like the House version of HB 1001, the Senate Appropriation's version calls for a substantial increase to K-12 public education funding (close to \$466 million). Also, like the House, the Senate's education funding formula would see more money going to growing school districts, while those with declining enrollments would see a significant decrease. School districts such as Indianapolis Public Schools and Fort Wayne Public Schools were set to lose large amounts in the House version since their enrollments are on the decline (close to \$32 million for Indianapolis Public Schools). However, the Senate version of HB 1001 softens the potential blow to those districts, and under that proposal they wouldn't lose as much funding. Other items in the Senate budget include an increase to higher education spending and \$200 million per year for infrastructure improvements. Indiana has failed to hit its projected revenues from the previous budget proposal (HEA 1001-2013) in seven of the last nine months. If the latest projections continue on this trend, expect lawmakers to tighten their belts as the budget is worked on during the conference committee process.

Here are some upcoming deadlines for the 2015 Session.

- 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)** – Ordered to Engrossment on the bill's 2nd Reading.
- **HB 1047 (Mini-Trucks)** – Heard Tuesday in the Senate Homeland Security and Transportation Committee, and was passed with an amendment.
- **HB 1150 (Police and Firefighter Retirement Matters)** – Passed the Senate on the bill's 3rd Reading by a vote of 47-1.
- **HB 1393 (Various Motor Vehicle Matters)** – Passed the Senate by a vote of 48-0.
- **HB 1475 (Statewide 911 System)** – Ordered to Engrossment on the bill's 2nd Reading.
- **SB 492 (Various Pension Matters)** – Ordered to Engrossment on the bill's 2nd Reading.
- **SB 559 (Various Criminal Law Matters)** – Ordered to Engrossment on the bill's 2nd Reading.

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.