

The Indiana General Assembly wrapped up the 2015 legislative session a few minutes before the midnight deadline. The new biennial budget, which is set to begin on July 1, 2015, passed both chambers close to party lines. HEA-1001 calls for a 2.3% increase in K-12 funding (about \$450 million additional) over the course of the next two years. Some school districts, predominantly urban, continued to see a decrease in funding with the newly proposed school funding formula, although the losses weren't as bad compared to earlier versions of the budget. Governor Pence's Regional Cities initiative, which looked all but dead for the year, was also revived in this budget to the full \$84 million original allocation. Money from the State's tax amnesty program will be used to fund the program going forward. Other highlights include a \$100 million a year for infrastructure improvements, while another \$80 million was allocated to local community corrections programs.

The gaming industry scored a victory this session with the passage of HEA 1540 (Various Gaming Matters). 1540 allows riverboat casinos to move inland on to the footprint of their properties. The bill also opened up the marketing tax credits, which allow casinos to offer 'free plays' at a reduced tax rate to possible customers. Finally, the bill kept the Senate's language in regard to live table dealers at the State's two racino properties. 1540 allows the racinos at both Anderson and Shelbyville to replace their electronic gaming systems with live table dealers in January of 2021. While the racinos were hopeful the change would occur this year, the Governor has consistently stated his opposition to such a move for fear it expands gaming in the State. Both sides agreed to delay the issue to 2021 so the bill would not be jeopardized by a possible Governor's veto.

One bill to not cross the finish line was a proposed soccer stadium in Indianapolis for the Indy Eleven soccer franchise. While the bill and stadium proposals changed over the course of the process, all sides involved could not come to a final agreement in time. This issue will more than likely resurface again in 2016.

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

- **HB 1006 (Criminal Justice Funding)** – The Conference Committee report was adopted by both Chambers. The bill is now on its way to the Governor to be signed into law.
- **HB 1047 (Various Motor Vehicle Matters)** – The Conference Committee report was adopted by both Chambers. The bill is now on its way to the Governor to be signed into law.
- **HB 1393 (Various Motor Vehicle Matters)** – The Conference Committee report was adopted by both Chambers. The bill is now on its way to the Governor to be signed into law.
- **SB 193 (Northwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy)** – Signed into law by the Governor.
- **SB 313 (Definition of “Sexual Conduct”)** – Signed into law by the Governor.
- **SB 559 (Various Criminal Law Matters)** – The Senate concurred with the House amendments. The bill passed its concurrence vote by 42-7, and is now on its way to the Governor to be signed into law.

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.