

The 2016 legislative session convened this past Tuesday for a short session. Lawmakers have until Monday, March 14th's Sine Die Deadline to conduct all business for the year. Due to the upcoming November elections, this legislative session is critical for Governor Mike Pence, especially in the wake of last year's RFRA controversy. Governor Mike Pence released his legislative agenda for the session on Monday. His main priorities focus on roads, education and health care. Governor Pence supports the Senate Republican proposals that would increase funding for both state and local roads. A proposed bill (21st Century Crossroads) by Senator Carlin Yoder (R-Middlebury), would appropriate an extra \$1 billion in new funding for state roads over the next four years. Senator Brandt Hershman (R-Buck Creek), introduced SB 67 (Local Road Funding) which makes almost \$420 million available in Local Option Income Tax reserves to be used for roads and bridges by local governments. The House Republican Caucus have also introduced their own road funding bills. Much remains to be seen on how both Chambers and the Governor come together on a bill before Sine Die. One item absent from the Governor's list of priorities was his position on expanding the State's civil rights protections. Many believe Governor Pence will address the issue on Tuesday night during his annual State of the State speech.

While most of the focus will be on the road funding and civil protections, many other issues will be taking the spotlight this upcoming year. They include:

- A-F School Grades
- Enhanced Penalties for Drug Dealing
- Various Gun Ownership Matters
- Teacher Evaluations and Bonuses and the Impact of ISTEP
- Sunday Sales of Alcohol

As mentioned earlier, this year will be a short session. That means it is a non-budget year with the Legislature meeting right until the March 14th deadline for adjournment. Here are some important deadlines for the 2016 Session.

- Friday, January 8th – Deadline for filing Senate Bills
- Tuesday, January 12th – Deadline for filing House Bills
- Wednesday, February 3rd – Last day for 3rd Reading of Senate bills in the Senate
- Wednesday, February 3rd – Last day for 3rd Reading of House bills in the House
- Wednesday, March 2nd – Last day for 3rd Reading of Senate bills in the House
- Wednesday, March 3rd – Last day for 3rd Reading of House bills in the Senate
- Monday, March 14th – 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 14 (Child Exploitation and Child Pornography)** – Heard Tuesday in the Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee, and was passed with an amendment.

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

- **HB 1012 (Autism Spectrum Disorder Certification Card)** – Scheduled to be heard on Monday in the House Public Health Committee.
- **SB 36 (Handgun Licenses and Alcohol)** – Scheduled to be heard on Wednesday in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

- **SB 148 (Public Employees' Defined Contribution Plan)** – Scheduled to be heard Wednesday in the Senate Pensions and Labor Committee.

As is our policy, we have attached an updated Bill Track List, with bills that are of an interest to you. Due to the bill filing deadlines for 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/2016/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.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. If we are out of the office, Frank's cell phone number is (317) 501-1131, and mine is (317) 519-2844