

Infrastructure funding continued to dominate the headlines this past week at the Indiana General Assembly.

The House Ways and Means Committee passed House Bill 1002, which is the long-term infrastructure funding plan. Bill author, Representative Ed Soliday's (R-Valparaiso) put together a package that includes increasing user fees by 10 cents per gallon on gasoline, special fuel and motor carrier surcharge taxes. The bill would implement a new \$15 annual fee on all vehicles and a \$150 annual fee on all electric vehicles registered in Indiana. If passed, House Bill 1002 would also require the Indiana Department of Transportation to study tolling and submit a waiver to the federal government to allow tolling on existing interstates. Soliday's bill now moves to the House floor for further consideration.

In response to HB 1002, the House Democrat Caucus unveiled their infrastructure funding plan, which seeks to generate at least \$800 million a year without increasing fuel taxes, implementing new fees or tolling. House Minority Leader Rep. Scott Pelath (D-Michigan City) says the plan would pull the money from taxes on corporations and financial institutions-halting cuts that are scheduled to take place in the next couple of years. In contrast to the Republican road proposal, which focuses on state roads, the Democratic plan devotes a majority of its spending to local road maintenance needs. The Indiana Department of Transportation has said Indiana will need an average of \$1.2 billion per year over the next 20 years to maintain and improve our current infrastructure.

While most of the spotlight was on road funding, education initiatives were also in the forefront. The House Education Committee passed Chairman Bob Behning's (R-Indianapolis) House Bill 1003, which would replace the I-STEP exam with the Indiana's Learning Evaluation Assessment Readiness Network exam. ILEARN resembles recommendations released last year by a committee of lawmakers and educators charged with helping create a new test. In addition to continuing to test students in grades 3-8 and at least once in high school in Math and English, the bill would require Indiana schools to give high school students a "nationally recognized" college or career readiness test. That test could be an exam for Advanced Placement, College Entrance Exam, or another test approved by the Indiana State Board of Education.

One final item this week. Governor Eric Holcomb signed a series of Executive Orders on Thursday morning. They included the following; naming former Governor Mike Pence Chief of Staff, Jim Atterholt, as Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Chairman, declaring a disaster emergency for the East Chicago Superfund Site, terminating contract discussions regarding telecommunication infrastructure between the Indiana Finance Authority and Agile Networks and pardoning Keith Cooper of a 1997 felony robbery conviction.

Each Chamber's Committee Report Deadline is less than two weeks away. Bills that fail to pass out of their assigned Committee will be considered dead.

Here are some upcoming deadlines for the 2017 Session.

- Tuesday, February 21-Senate/House Committee Report Filing Deadline
- Monday, February 27-Last day for 3rd Reading of Senate bills in the Senate

- Monday, February 27-Last day for 3rd Reading of House bills in the House
- Monday, April 10-Senate/House Committee Report Filing Deadline
- Thursday, April 13-Last day for 3rd reading of Senate bills in the House
- Thursday, April 13-Last day for 3rd reading of House bills in the Senate
- Saturday, April 29-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 1071 (Authorization to Carry a Handgun)** – Heard Tuesday in the House Public Policy Committee, and was held for a vote.
- **HB 1095 (Plastic-Coated Ammunition)** – Passed on the bill’s Third Reading on the House Floor at a vote of 95-1.
- **HB 1162 (Armed Officers on School Property)** – Heard Tuesday in the House Public Policy Committee, and was held for a vote.
- **HB 1250 (Handgun Licenses and Law Enforcement Officers)** – Heard Tuesday in the House Public Policy Committee, and was passed with an amendment.

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

- **HB 1189 (Crime Reporting Requirements)** – Scheduled for a hearing in the House Veteran Affairs and Public Safety Committee on Tuesday.
- **HB 1535 (Law Enforcement Training and Education)** – Scheduled for a hearing in the House Veteran Affairs and Public Safety Committee on Tuesday.
- **HB 1577 (DNA Samples of Felony Arrestees)** – Scheduled for a hearing in the House Judiciary Committee on Monday.
- **SB 61 (School Resource Officers)** – Scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Civil Law Committee on Monday.
- **SB 344 (Possession of a Firearm by an Illegal Alien)** – Scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee on Tuesday.
- **SB 439 (Bias Crimes)** – Heard Tuesday in the Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee, and was passed with an amendment.

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

If you would like to see a full copy of any bill, please visit <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/2017/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.