

This week wrapped up committee meetings on both sides of the General Assembly.

The Senate Appropriations Committee heard Senate Bill 276 (Prekindergarten Education), authored by Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Fort Wayne), which would expand the current pre-K pilot statewide to every community that meets the income requirement of below 127% of the poverty line and the requirement of having qualified programs. Appropriations Committee Chairman Luke Kenley (R-Noblesville) offered an amendment that would provide \$13 million in funding-including \$1 million for a new pilot program that would pay for families to use technology that would teach preschool curriculum at home. Governor Eric Holcomb (R-Indianapolis) supported doubling the state's investment in pre-K to \$20 million a year in his State of the State address in January. Holcomb noted that expanding the pilot program would build a 21st century skilled and ready workforce by ensuring that Indiana's children have a strong beginning to their education. The bill passed the Committee by a vote of 12-1 and now heads to the floor of the Senate Chamber.

The Indiana House of Representatives passed Rep. Bob Behning's (R-Indianapolis) bill, which would replace ISTEP 67-31 on Monday. The proposed replacement is Indiana's Learning Evaluation Assessment Readiness Network (ILEARN) exam. Under this proposal, the statewide assessment would be given during a single testing window in May. Behning is optimistic this will provide a better measure of student proficiency since the exam will be administered at the end of the year. The bill now moves to the Senate for further consideration.

Both the House and the Senate sponsored bills this session to make the State Superintendent of Public Instruction an appointed position by the Governor. The Senate failed to pass its version of the bill at a vote of 23-26 this week despite being one of Governor Holcomb's legislative priorities. A similar bill is still alive in the House, but may not have the opportunity to come up again with the Third Reading deadline being Monday.

As mentioned, next Monday and Tuesday are the Third Reading deadlines for the House and Senate respectively. Bills that fail to pass on Third Reading will be considered dead. Your Bill Track List should reflect those changes next week.

Here are some upcoming deadlines for the 2017 Session:

- Monday, February 27-Last day for 3rd Reading of House bills in the House
- Tuesday, February 28-Last for the 3rd Reading of Senate bills in the Senate
- Monday, April 3-Senate/House Committee Report Filing Deadline
- Thursday, April 6-Last day for 3rd reading of Senate bills in the House
- Thursday, April 6-Last day for 3rd reading of House bills in the Senate
- Friday, April 21- Anticipated Day of adjournment (Sine Die)
- Saturday, April 29-Deadline 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)** – Passed on the bill’s Third Reading on Tuesday at a vote of 72-26.
- **HB 1084 (Emergency Contact Data Base)** – Passed on the bill’s Third Reading on Tuesday at a vote of 93-0.
- **HB 1189 (Crime Reporting Requirements)** – Passed on the bill’s Third Reading on Monday at a vote of 96-0.
- **HB 1250 (Handgun Licenses and Law Enforcement Officers)** – Passed on the bill’s Third Reading on Monday at a vote of 90-7.
- **HB 1535 (Study of Law Enforcement)** – Passed on the bill’s Third Reading on Monday at a vote of 96-0.
- **HB 1555 (Police Reserve Officers and Other Volunteers)** – Passed on the bill’s Third Reading on Tuesday at a vote of 96-0.
- **HB 1577 (DNA Samples of Felony Arrestees)** – Passed on the bill’s Third Reading on Tuesday at a vote of 81-16.
- **HB 1617 (1977 Fund and Sheriff’s Disability Benefits)** – Ordered to Engrossment on the bill’s Second Reading.
- **SB 61 (School Resource Officers)** – Ordered to Engrossment on the bill’s Second Reading.
- **SB 231 (Crisis Intervention Teams and Substance Abuse Programs)** – Passed on the bill’s Third Reading on Tuesday at a vote of 48-0.
- **SB 285 (Mass Traffic Obstruction)** – Heard Wednesday in Senate Local Government Committee, and was passed with an amendment.
- **SB 299 (Offenses Involving Unmanned Aerial Vehicles)** – Heard Tuesday in Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee, and was passed with an amendment.
- **SB 322 (DNA for Felony Arrestees)** – Heard Thursday in Senate Appropriations Committee, and was passed with an amendment.
- **SB 344 (Possession of a Firearm by an Illegal Alien)** – Passed on the bill’s Third Reading on Tuesday at a vote of 44-4.
- **SB 408 (INSPECT Program)** – Passed on the bill’s Third Reading on Monday at a vote of 49-0.

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.

