

Both the House and Senate Chambers were able to meet their 3rd Reading deadlines with relative ease on Thursday. The Senate passed their version of the budget by a vote of 39-9. The \$32.1 billion Senate plan would spend slightly more than the House proposal including increases in K-12 education and veterans' programs. As you may recall, HB 1496 (Alcohol Matters) was heard by the Senate Public Policy Committee last week to prohibit a legal loophole used by two Ricker's convenience store locations to sell beer. The Senate passed HB 1496 by a vote of 40-8 on its Third Reading and it now goes to conference for deliberations by both Chambers.

Conference Committees will begin next week in hopes of working out differences between the House and Senate passed versions of a particular bill before the anticipated Friday, April 21st Sine. Many of the larger issues this year such as the State Biennial Budget (HB 1001), Transportation Infrastructure Funding (HB 1002), Prekindergarten Education (HB 1004) and Alcohol Matters (HB 1496) are all heading to Conference Committee.

Conference Committee Process

As mentioned previously, conference committee's will begin next week. Any bill that was amended in the second Chamber is sent back. The original author of the bill can either concur with the changes, or dissent. If the author concurs, the bill is eligible for a concurrence vote in its Chamber of Origin. Once the bill has passed that vote, it is sent to the Governor to be signed into law. If the author dissents, a conference committee is appointed for the bill.

Conference committees consist of one member from each of the four legislative caucuses. The conference committees meet and discuss the changes made to a particular bill. Rules for conference committees are fairly open. They have the option to allow or not allow testimony from third parties. For a conference committee report to be adopted, it will go back to each Chamber for passage.

Here are some upcoming deadlines for the 2017 Session:

- 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 (Handgun Study)** – Passed on the bill's Third Reading by a vote of 42-5. House dissented from Senate amendments so the bill will head to Conference Committee.
- **HB 1122 (Critical Incident Stress Management Services)** – Returned to the House with amendments. Motion to concur filed.
- **HB 1535 (Study of Law Enforcement Training Matters)** – Passed on the bill's Third Reading by a vote of 48-0. Returned to the House without amendments. The bill is now on its way to the Governor's Office to be signed into law.
- **HB 1555 (Police Reserve Officers)** – Passed on the bill's Third Reading by a vote of 47-1. Motion to concur filed.

- **HB 1977 (Fund Disability Benefits)** – Motion to concur filed. Concurrences eligible for action.
- **SB 46 (Various Pension Matters)** – Senate concurred with House amendments and passed its concurrence vote 46-0, and is now on its way to the Governor’s Office to be signed into law.
- **SB 61 (School Resource Officers)** – Passed on the bill’s Third Reading by a vote of 93-1. Returned to the Senate with amendments.
- **SB 112 (Hospital Police Departments)** – Passed on the bill’s Third Reading by a vote of 92-2. Motion to concur filed.
- **SB 231 (Crisis Intervention Teams)** – Passed on the bill’s Third Reading by a vote of 94-0. Motion to concur filed.
- **SB 322 (DNA for Felony Arrestees)** – Passed on the bill’s Third Reading by a vote of 84-13.
- **SB 408 (INSPECT PROGRAM)** – Passed on the bill’s Third Reading by a vote of 88-0. Returned to the Senate with amendments so the bill will head to Conference Committee.

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.

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, mine is (317) 519-2844, Dalton’s is (502) 396-6476 and John’s is (812) 899-0190.