

On Tuesday, it was announced that the Federal Government had approved Governor Pence's Healthy Indiana Plan 2.0. You may recall this was the Governor's response to the Affordable Care Act of 2010. The current estimates for Medicaid expansion in Indiana under HIP 2.0 is anywhere from 1-1.4 million people. This has been a long and grueling process for the Administration. Governor Pence, in his first year of office, opted out of joining the Affordable Care Act State exchange. That move was criticized by many as being purely political. Despite the reasons for not joining, Indiana did lose out on millions of dollars in subsidies from the federal government by not entering into ACA. Governor Pence and his team vowed to find their own solution that made sense for Indiana. On Tuesday, both sides of the aisle applauded the efforts of the Governor and his staff for making HIP 2.0 a reality.

Not everything went according to plan for the Governor this week. While his HIP 2.0 announcement was hailed as a victory from both sides of the aisle, a memo from one of the Governor's staffers was picked up by the Indianapolis Star which detailed the administration's plans to start their own state run media news outlet, called JustIN. The plan drew immediate criticism by many for creating a government run news agency. Fear of the administration shaping the content and messaging of the news was cited by both Republicans and Democrats alike. On Thursday, it was announced that JustIN would not be pursued by the Governor.

As was mentioned last week, the Senate is planning to take up a measure which would remove the Superintendent of Public Instruction from their post as Chair of the State Board of Education. Current Superintendent, Glenda Ritz, a Democrat, and the Republican controlled State Board of Education have been at odds since Ritz took her post in 2013. Governor Pence made the election of the State Board of Education Chair one of his legislative priorities this year. The House Education Committee took up the same issue this week with House Bill 1609, authored by Representative Jud McMillin (R-Brooksville). Superintendent Ritz was on hand to testify where she called the bill an unnecessary political maneuver. Proponents argued that an election of the Chair will cause for less disruptions and a better environment to conduct business. Despite pleas from the Superintendent and other education groups, the bill passed along party lines of 8-3.

Here are some upcoming deadlines for the 2015 Session.

- Wednesday, February 25th – Last day for 3rd Reading of Senate bills in the Senate
- Wednesday, February 25th – Last day for 3rd Reading of House bills in the House
- Wednesday, April 15th – Last day for 3rd Reading of House bills in the Senate
- Wednesday, April 15th – Last day for 3rd Reading of Senate bills in the House
- Wednesday, April 29th – 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 1150 (1977 Police Officers' and Firefighters' Fund)** – Passed the House on the bill's 3rd Reading.
- **HB 1242 (Reserve Officer Training)** – Passed the House on the bill's 3rd Reading.
- **SB 265 (Purchase of Service Credit)** – Passed the Senate on the bill's 3rd Reading.
- **SB 419 (Town Marshalls)** – Passed the Senate on the bill's 3rd Reading.
- **SB 492 (Various Pension Matters)** – Heard Wednesday in the Senate Pensions and Labor Committee, and was passed with an amendment.

- **SB 559 (Crimes of Violence)** – 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 1490 (Police Reserve Officers)** – Scheduled to be heard on Tuesday in the House Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee.
- **SB 035 (Speed Limits in School Zones)** – Scheduled to be heard on Tuesday in the Senate Homeland Security and Transportation Committee.
- **SB 375 (Human Trafficking and Asset Forfeiture)** – Scheduled to be heard on Wednesday in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

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.