

With the February 19th Committee Report Deadline looming, members of the Indiana General Assembly worked overtime to move their bills this past week.

The House Public Policy Committee and its Chairman Tom Dermody (R-LaPorte) were extremely busy this past week. On Wednesday, they were the first in the history of the Indiana General Assembly to pass a bill out of committee that would allow for Sunday Sales of alcohol. Big box retailers and convenience stores for years have advocated for the law change, while the package liquor store industry was strongly opposed. Chairman Dermody (also the author of House Bill 1624) added an amendment during Committee which would place greater restrictions on the sale of alcohol for the big box and convenience stores. Some of those new regulations include employee/clerk training similar to those of package liquor store employees, no self service, beer and wine in one area of the store, and liquor behind the counter. Once the amendment was adopted, the package liquor industry came out in support of HB 1624 citing common sense public policy with more responsible retail of liquor across the board, while the big box and convenience stores opposed the measure for fear that it would drive consumers away. HB 1624 still has a long way to go in the process. The bill is eligible for 2nd Reading next week where those in opposition of the bill will try and remove many of the restrictions that were placed in the committee amendment.

The House Public Policy Committee met again on Thursday, this time to discuss changes to Indiana's casino industry. Indiana was one of the first states to enact riverboat gaming in the early 1990's as a way to boost the State's economy. Over those first 10-15 years, the State greatly benefitted from the industry. However, as our neighbors allowed for casino gaming, the market became saturated and Indiana's casinos continued to see significant drops in revenue. The General Assembly had made previous attempts to keep the industry competitive, but in reality those minor changes were a band aid instead of a bullet. One of the main issues that has loomed for some time is an outdated provision which calls for all "live" gaming to be done on water, as opposed to land. Many of the newer casinos found in neighboring states are land based, which is a preferred set up by most. House Bill 1540 (Various Gaming Matters), once again authored by the Chairman, Rep. Tom Dermody, would allow for all of the State's casinos to move off the river and build on the footprint of the property. Anti-gaming advocates fear this move to a land location is an expansion of gaming, along with a provision that allow for live table dealers at the State's two racino properties in Anderson and Shelbyville. Currently, those two properties have electronic gaming but no live table dealers. The bill passed out of Committee by a vote of 10-2. Due to the fiscal projection of the bill, HB 1540 will be heard in Ways and Means before it can become eligible for a full House vote.

As mentioned, next Thursday is the Committee Report Deadline. All bills that fail to pass out of their assigned committee will be considered dead. Your Bill Track List should reflect those changes next week.

Here are some upcoming deadlines for the 2015 Session.

- Thursday, February 18th – Committee Report Deadline
- 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 1006 (Criminal Justice Funding)** – Heard Monday in the House Judiciary Committee, and was passed with an amendment. The bill has been recommitted to the House Ways and Means Committee.
- **HB 1181 (Industrial Hemp)** – Ordered to Engrossment on the bill's 2nd Reading.
- **SB 035 (Speed Limits in School Zones)** – Passed the Senate on the bill's 3rd Reading.
- **SB 289 (Confidential Victim Service Requests)** – Heard Wednesday in the Senate Judiciary Committee and was passed with an amendment.
- **SB 382 (Statewide 911 Systems)** – Passed the Senate on the bill's 3rd Reading.
- **SB 388 (Seizure and Forfeiture of Property)** – Heard Wednesday in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and was passed with an amendment.
- **SB 492 (Various Pension Matters)** – Passed the Senate on the bill's 3rd Reading.

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

- **HB 1197 (TECC Trainer Programs)** – Scheduled to be heard on Tuesday in the House Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee.
- **SB 236 (Automated License Plate Readers)** – Scheduled to be heard on Tuesday in the Senate Homeland Security and Transportation Committee.
- **SB 341 (Lost and Personal Property Submitted to the Police)** – Scheduled to be heard on Tuesday in the Senate Homeland Security and Transportation Committee.
- **SB 536 (Methamphetamine Related Conviction Reporting)** – Scheduled to be heard on Tuesday in the Senate Corrections and Criminal Law 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.