

House Ways and means passed House Bill 1001 (Budget) earlier this week which called for a \$31.4 billion budget over the next two years. K-12 school funding was increased by 4.7 percent, which is almost a 3% increase from the Governor's proposed budget in January. However, the funding formula changes the way money is now divided between school districts. The House Chairman of Ways and Means, Representative Tim Brown (R-Crawfordsville), thinks the amended version of 1001 closes the gap between schools who received the most money per student and those receiving the least amount. What came as a surprise to no one is the fact most urban schools were the biggest losers under the new formula. In fact, 91 of the State's 289 school districts would receive less money over the next two years than the previous budget cycles. Indianapolis Public Schools would be the biggest loser, as they would see a \$4.3 loss in 2016 and another \$10 million hit in 2017.

The fight for Sunday alcohol sales was once again in the spotlight this past week. On Thursday, the House Bill 1624 was called down for the bill's 2nd Reading. (Amendments are eligible to be adopted during any bill's 2nd Reading.) Currently, HB 1624 would repeal the State's prohibition of retail alcohol sales on Sunday. In the House Public Policy Committee last week, an amendment was adopted which would call for more responsible selling of alcohol at all retail establishments across the State. Most of the amendment's new requirements were aimed at big box retailers and pharmacies, which are able to sell alcohol with less restrictions. The requirements in the amendment included all beer and wine being placed in a designated area, no self scanning of alcohol products, employees must be of the age of 21 to check out a customer purchasing alcohol, and all liquor must be placed behind the counter. As you can imagine, the House Public Policy amendment was met with a lot of resistance from those specific retailers. In an attempt to appease some of their concerns, Representative Jud McMillin (R-Brooksville) offered an amendment to remove the portion of the bill requiring all liquor to be placed behind the counter of a retail or pharmacy. Representatives from the retail industry expressed concern about the cost to build and place liquor behind the counter, and also the possible inconvenience consumers may experience while purchasing those products. Many members of the House spoke against the Representative McMillin's amendment, saying package liquor stores already have greater restrictions for operations and this bill would bring parity for the sale of all alcohol in Indiana. They noted that purchasing a case of beer should not be a different experience between a package liquor store, a grocery store, or a pharmacy. Representative McMillin's amendment failed to be adopted in the bill by a vote of 45-47. HB 1624 remains unchanged after 2nd Reading, and the House is expected to take it up for a full vote on Monday.

Next Wednesday is the 3rd Reading Deadline for both the House and Senate Chambers. All bills that fail to pass out of their Chamber of origin will be considered dead. Your Bill Track List should reflect those changes next week.

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 1006 (Criminal Justice Funding)** – Ordered to Engrossment on the bill’s 2nd Reading.
- **HB 1161 (Immunity for Damage Caused Rescuing a Child)** – Ordered to Engrossment on the bill’s 2nd Reading.
- **HB 1181 (Industrial Hemp)** – Passed the House on the bill’s 3rd Reading.
- **HB 1197 (First Responder Tactical Training)** – Ordered to Engrossment on the bill’s 2nd Reading.
- **HB 1393 (Various Motor Vehicle Matters)** – Heard Wednesday in the House Ways and Means Committee, and was passed with an amendment.
- **HB 1475 (Statewide 911 System)** – Heard Wednesday in the House Ways and Means Committee, and was passed with an amendment.
- **SB 289 (Confidential Victim Services Requests)** – Passed the Senate on the bill’s 3rd Reading by a vote of 50-0.
- **SB 296 (Adult Entertainment Performers)** – Ordered to Engrossment on the bill’s 2nd Reading.
- **SB 380 (Crisis Intervention Teams)** – Heard Tuesday in the Senate Homeland Security and Transportation Committee, and was passed with an amendment.
- **SB 388 (Seizure and Forfeiture of Property)** – Ordered to Engrossment on the bill’s 2nd Reading.
- **SB 427 (Distribution of Public Safety Income Tax Revenue)** – Ordered to Engrossment on the bill’s 2nd Reading.
- **SB 491 (School Emergency Response Systems)** – Passed the Senate on the bill’s 3rd Reading.
- **SB 536 (Methamphetamine)** – Heard Thursday in the Senate Appropriations Committee and was passed without an amendment.

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.