

The first half of the 2015 legislative session is now in the books. Both the House and Senate were able to meet Wednesday's 3rd Reading deadline without much difficulty.

The proposed \$31.5 billion biennial budget, House Bill 1001 (Budget), passed the House Chamber on its 3rd Reading by a party line vote of 69-29. As you may recall, one of the Governor's legislative initiatives this year was to retool the school funding formula. Under the new formula, school districts with growing enrollment, which are predominantly located in suburban areas, saw the biggest increase. While districts with declining enrollments, saw a decrease in funding. As a whole, the House's proposed budget increased overall school funding 4.7% from the previous biennial budget.

One of the biggest surprises of the first half came on Tuesday morning when Representative Tom Dermody (R-LaPorte) announced that House Bill 1624 was dead. HB 1624 would have removed the prohibition of buying and purchasing alcohol on Sunday's. Representative Dermody, who also chairs the House Public Policy Committee, had worked hard to reach a compromise between package liquor stores and other retailers that would remove the Sunday Sales ban while also promoting responsible retail of alcohol. Previous supporters of the bill, which included big box retailers, pharmacies and convenience stores quickly changed their position of support to opposition once the regulations were added to the bill. Representative Dermody noted their opposition as a reason the bill did not have enough support to pass it on its 3rd Reading vote.

Other bills to watch during the second half of the legislative session include:

- Senate Bill 001 (State Board Governance)
- Senate Bill 101 (Religious Freedom Act)
- House Bill 1002 (Ethics)
- House Bill 1273 (Marion County Economic Development)
- House Bill 1540 (Various Gaming Matters)

All bills that failed to pass out of their Chamber of origin are considered dead. Your Bill Track List should reflect those changes this week.

Here are some upcoming deadlines for the 2015 Session.

- 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)** – Passed the House on the bill's 3rd Reading by a vote of 97-0.
- **HB 1161 (Immunity for Damage Caused Rescuing a Child)** – Passed the House on the bill's 3rd Reading by a vote of 96-0.
- **HB 1197 (First Responder Tactical Training)** – Passed the House on the bill's 3rd Reading by a vote of 96-0.
- **HB 1393 (Various Motor Vehicle Matters)** – Passed the House on the bill's 3rd Reading by a vote of 69-25.

- **HB 1475 (Statewide 911 System)** – Passed the House on the bill's 3rd Reading by a vote of 81-12.
- **SB 380 (Crisis Intervention Teams)** – Passed the Senate on the bill's 3rd Reading by a vote of 48-1.
- **SB 388 (Reporting of Property Forfeiture)** – Passed the Senate on the bill's 3rd Reading by a vote of 50-0.
- **SB 421 (Autocycles)** – Passed the Senate on the bill's 3rd Reading by a vote of 50-0.
- **SB 536 (Methamphetamine)** – Passed the Senate on the bill's 3rd Reading by a vote of 46-3.

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.