



Session – Week 5
February 7, 2025

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



INCPAS Weekly Update

INCPAS	https://tinyurl.com/INCPAS2025
INCPAS- TAX	https://tinyurl.com/INCPAS-TAX2025

Week five of the General Assembly remained busy in the Indiana General Assembly this week. This week, a total of 36 bills passed the House and 30 bill passed the Senate.

The state budget bill, [HB 1001](#), received its first committee hearing of the session in the House Ways and Means Committee on Thursday afternoon. The introduced version of the budget included reductions in funding of several state agencies as well as funding cuts for other programs funded by the state as compared to the previous state budget. This hearing is only the first step in a lengthy legislative process for the budget bill and there will be several changes made to the bill before the General Assembly passes it at the end of April.

Regarding tax-related legislation this week, the focus in the Senate was on [SB 1](#), authored by Sen. Travis Holdman (R- Markle). SB 1 contains Governor Braun’s three main policy initiatives for property tax relief. First, the bill allows property taxpayers to either take advantage of a 60% homestead tax credit or have their property tax bill revert back to what they paid in 2021, whichever is lower. Second, the bill caps the annual increase of residential property tax bill by 2% for elderly taxpayers and by 3% for all other taxpayers. Finally, the bill makes changes to referendum process required for controlled projects that would put the property tax rate over 1% of the assessed value for residential property, as well as create more transparency surrounding property tax. SB 1 was heard in the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee on Tuesday of this week, where it received testimony, mostly from local government officials expressing concerns about the uncertainty the bill would create regarding local government funding. The bill was held until next week for further discussion and a vote. The bill awaits further action in the Senate.

In the House, the focus was on the budget bill this week. In addition to setting the budgets for the state, HB 1001 creates several tax credits and exemptions. These include an exemption of tips from adjusted gross income tax, an outdoor recreation sales tax holiday, and a tax deduction for retirement income, among several others. After receiving testimony from almost 80 people in the Ways and Means Committee on Thursday, the committee held the bill for further discussion next week.

Indiana on the Global Stage

A long-standing goal of The Indiana General Assembly (IGA) has been promoting economic development and innovation across the state. This year, [HB 1489](#) seeks to establish an Indiana-Ireland Trade commission. According to bill author Representative Tim O'Brien (R – Evansville), Ireland is already one of Indiana's largest trade partners representing \$20.8 billion a year in imports.

"Indiana has long had strong cultural and economic ties to Ireland and establishing an Indiana-Ireland Trade Commission would strengthen that foundation. The commission could open doors for new business opportunities, encourage investment and bolster our state's position on the global stage," Rep. O'Brien said.

As proposed by HB 1489, the Trade Commission would consist of a 13-member bipartisan body housed under the executive branch. If enacted, it would be tasked with strengthening trade and investment between Indiana and Ireland.

It aims to foster collaboration on policy, promote business and academic exchanges, and support economic and infrastructure development in both regions.

Of the 13 members, nine would be voting members appointed by the governor and four would be advisory members from the IGA.

Among the voting members, one must be from the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, one from a higher education institution, two of Irish-American descent, and two with civic experience representing Irish-Americans.

House Bill 1489 passed out of committee with bipartisan support before passing out of the House on third reading with an 87-1 vote. The bill awaits further action in the Senate.

AEDs & Student Safety at Athletic Events

The Senate Health and Provider Services Committee unanimously passed [SB 350](#) on Wednesday. Sen. Linda Rogers' (R – Granger) bill focuses on both improving access to and increasing knowledge of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and allows school funding to be used to purchase them. It drew broad support from local leaders and families.

Both EMS and firefighters testified in support of the bill's AED expansion. Local advocacy groups touted the need for increased education regarding the usage of AEDs.

One mother testified that her son passed away mere feet from an AED because no students understood how to use the device. In the aftermath of his death, the school implemented training programs and held fundraisers to purchase more AEDs. Through charitable contributions, they acquired 25 defibrillators. Coaches utilize a shared calendar to monitor the location of each device, and which team is in possession of it.

One student whose life was saved by an AED testified that it is not enough to simply possess one, training is necessary. The bill ensures that every school takes the necessary steps to create a training program and drill teachers, staff, and students in the same manner that they practice other safety procedures.

For every minute after a heart attack, the chances of survival decrease by 10%. Early defibrillation and CPR are essential ways to save someone in cardiac arrest before an ambulance arrives. Nearly 23,000 children die every year due to cardiac arrest and 43% of those deaths occur at school sporting events. However, the survival rate increases from 17% to 80% when an AED is present at an athletic event.

Legislative Deadlines 125th General Assembly

House and Senate committee report deadlines:

February 17, 2025

House and Senate second reading deadline:

February 19, 2025

House and Senate third reading deadline:

February 20, 2025

Crossover break:

February 24 – February 28, 2025

Second half of session begins:

March 3, 2025

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