



Session – Week 12
March 28, 2025

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



INCPAS

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During week twelve of session in the General Assembly, many bills continued to move through the committees, but we did not see any movement on the two most prominent bills of the session, the budget bill [HB 1001](#) and the property tax reform bill [SB 1](#). However, discussions on both bills continued behind the scenes this week within and between House and Senate leadership. Next Wednesday, the House Ways and Means committee is expected to hear the DOR agency bill [SB 453](#), sponsored by Rep. Craig Snow (R- Warsaw) on Wednesday, April 2. After discussing the bill with Rep. Snow yesterday, we expect there will be many tax-related amendments filed in committee on the bill, and we will be watching the committee hearing closely.

On Monday, March 24, [HB 1143](#) passed out of the Senate 46-1 and returned to the House. Sen. Mike Young (R-Indianapolis) was the only no vote on the bill. Because the Senate amended the bill by removing the language requiring the DOR to accept electronic documents, the bill’s author Rep. Heath Van Natter (R- Burlington) must either concur with the Senate amendment or file a dissent. We expect Rep. Van Natter to concur next week, at which time the House will vote to accept the Senate changes to the bill and send the bill to the Governor’s desk to be signed into law.

As always, to keep track of your bills, you can follow their progress and see updates by clicking the link above and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Conference Committees

With critical deadlines for the second half of session just over two weeks away, the Indiana General Assembly is entering one of the busiest times of session.

For a bill to survive the statutory end date of April 29, both chambers must pass the exact same language by a constitutional majority vote. If a bill is amended in the second half of session, it must be returned to its chamber of origin for a concurrence or a dissent by the bill's author on the changes made. In the case of a dissent, the bill is sent to a conference committee.

Conference committees consist of two members from each chamber, one Democrat and one Republican appointed by the House Speaker and the Senate President Pro Tempore, respectively. Often decisions are made ahead of time and conference committee meetings can sometimes last only a few minutes. Conferees may amend bills as they please as long as the conference committee report (the final version of the bill) is signed by all four conferees.

Any conferee's reluctance to sign the report does not present as significant an obstacle as it might first appear. While the committee must start with an equal number of Democrats and Republicans from both

chambers, a conferee can be removed and replaced with a member from either party. All conference committee reports must pass both chambers by a constitutional majority vote. Otherwise, the legislation dies.

These last few weeks of session will be marked by numerous conference committees, Rules Committee meetings, and session meetings. This portion of Indiana's legislative process garners a great deal of scrutiny as many bills die or change significantly in conference committee.

So far, only a handful of amended bills have been returned to their chamber of origin. As of Thursday, March 27 eleven concurrences and zero dissents have been filed by the Senate. The House has filed thirteen concurrences with dissents on just two bills: [HB 1682](#), General Legislative Matters, and [HB 1460](#) Drainage Systems. It is highly likely that the biennial budget, [HB 1001](#), will go to a conference committee.

Braun Signs First Bills

Governor Braun recently signed seven of the ten bills sent to his desk this week. This is the first bill signing of his term, marking a key milestone of his first few months in office. Each bill successfully navigated the legislative process, passing through committee assignments, second reading and third reading debates.

Each bill was signed by the Speaker of the House, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the President of the Senate (the lieutenant governor, who presides over the Indiana Senate) before being sent to the Governor's desk.

Indiana is known for having a "limited" gubernatorial system. Unlike states where the chief executive holds significant authority, Indiana embedded checks and balance in its state constitution.

While Governor Braun holds the power to veto any legislation, the General Assembly can override a gubernatorial veto with a simple constitutional majority vote—51%—in both chambers. This ensures a balance of power between the executive and legislative branches and the governor's veto power can be overridden if there is sufficient support in the legislature.

As of Thursday, March 27, the Senate has passed four additional bills from its concurrence calendar. The house passed five. More bills will reach the governor's desk in the coming weeks as both the House and Senate add to their respective concurrence calendars.

Just over a month remains in the legislative session before the last day to adjourn—*sine die*—arrives on April 29.

2025 UPCOMING DEADLINES

HOUSE: Senate Bills

Committees: Thursday, April 10, 2025
 2nd Reading: Monday, April 14, 2025
 3rd Reading: Thursday, April 15, 2025

SENATE: House Bills

Committees: Thursday, April 10, 2025
 2nd Reading: Monday, April 14, 2025
 3rd Reading: Thursday, April 15, 2025

HOUSE & SENATE

Anticipated Sine Die: Thursday, April 24
 Statutory Sine Die: Tuesday, April 29

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CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

The conference committee process is the process of reconciling bills to guarantee that every piece of language receives a constitutional majority vote in both chambers before it becomes law. Please see the graphic below which helps explain the conference committee process.

