

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



### **INCPAS**

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INCPAS	https://tinyurl.com/INCPAS2025
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Week 13 of the session was mostly quiet regarding tax-related legislation. The house Ways and Means committee heard the DOR agency bill <u>SB 453</u> on Wednesday, where it added several amendments to the bill and passed it out of committee 23-0. This bill is shaping up to be the tax "Christmas tree" bill for tax language this session, containing a wide variety of tax language. There was no movement this week on two of the most important bills this session, <u>HB 1001</u> and <u>SB 1</u>, but discussions continue behind closed doors between the House, the Senate and the Governor's Office regarding property tax reform language in SB 1.

Next Thursday, April 10 marks the deadline for the General Assembly to adopt committee reports. The House Ways and Means committee will have a second and final hearing on SB 1 next Wednesday, where the committee will amend and pass the bill out of committee. Next Thursday morning, the Senate Appropriations committee will hear and add its amendments to the budget bill, HB 1001.

The CPA pathways licensure bill HB 1143 returned to the House this week after passing out of the Senate last week by a vote of 43-1. (The bill retains the current licensure pathways but introduces a new pathway requiring a baccalaureate degree, passage of the Exam and two years of experience effective 1/1/2027.) Rep. Van Natter filed his motion to concur with the Senate changes, and the House approved the motion to concur by a vote of 90-0 this Thursday. The next step for the bill is that it will be distributed to the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate (Lieutenant Governor) and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate for signatures. This process may take several days as the signers often wait a few days to sign so that they can sign several bills at once. After that, the final stop for HB 1143 will be the Governor's desk, where Gov. Braun has seven days to either sign the bill into law or veto the bill. If the governor does nothing in seven days, the bill automatically becomes law.

Indiana lawmakers are considering six bills that will have significant impact on Hoosiers' healthcare if they become law this session.

HB 1003, authored by Rep. Brad Barrett (R-Richmond), aims to strengthen Indiana's Medicaid program through better oversight, fraud prevention, and public transparency. It gives the state's Medicaid fraud unit new tools, including access to data from other agencies and the ability to designate investigators as law enforcement officers. Health care providers will be required to publicly share clear and comparable pricing information for commonly used services, and managed care entities must establish ways to track and evaluate the performance of Medicaid managed care plans. The bill passed out of the Senate Health and Provider Services committee 12-0 and was recommitted to the Appropriations Committee.

HB 1004, authored by Rep. Martin Carbaugh (R-Ft. Wayne), aims to place new cost controls on nonprofit hospitals. The bill introduces a new facility fee excise tax for charges that exceed 265% of the Medicare rate.

In addition, if a nonprofit hospital charges more than 300% of its Medicare rate for any service, it may lose its nonprofit status—though it can later reapply. The bill also mandates annual reporting of charges and financial data, plus public sharing of IRS filings to improve transparency. The bill passed out of the Senate Health and Provider Services committee 10-1 and was recommitted to Appropriations.

HB 1666, authored by Rep. Julie McGuire (R-Indianapolis), requires health care entities to disclose information about who owns or controls them. While ownership details are kept confidential, they must be shared with key state agencies to help the state monitor how mergers and acquisitions may impact competition, access to care, or health care costs. The bill passed the Senate on March 25 46-1.

SB 2, authored by Sen. Ryan Mishler (R-Bremen), was amended to restrict advertising for Medicaid-related advertising, but allows entities to indicate their participation in the Medicaid program.

It requires state agencies to regularly verify recipients' eligibility. The bill allows for retroactive presumptive eligibility for 30 days.

It implements work requirements but includes various exemptions. The bill passed out of Ways and Means as amended 16-7.

SB 118, authored by Sen. Ed Charbonneau (R-Valparaiso), increases oversight of the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program, which allows certain hospitals and clinics to purchase prescription drugs at discounted prices for underserved patients. It requires these providers to report data on how much they spend and save through the program. The Indiana Department of Health will compile this information into an annual public report. The bill passed the House 91-1.

SB 480, authored by Sen. Tyler Johnson (R-Leo), simplifies the process patients and doctors must go through when insurers require prior approval for treatments. It sets clearer rules for when and how insurers can deny coverage and ensures those decisions are based on medical expertise. It also prohibits insurers from rejecting claims simply because a provider is out-of-network. The bill was heard and held in last week's House Insurance Committee.

#### 2025 UPCOMING DEADLINES

**HOUSE: Senate Bills** 

Committees: Thursday, April 10, 2025 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Monday, April 14, 2025 Thursday, April 15, 2025

SENATE: House Bills

Committees: Thursday, April 10, 2025 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.



