

2011 House Votes

Bills Used for Vote Analysis

HB 1001 (Conference Committee Report) State Budget

Authored by Rep. Espich. Establishes the state appropriations and expenditure authorizations for the next two years.

Chamber Position: Support. This fiscally-prudent budget essentially flatlines most appropriations to match fiscal year 2011 spending and makes additional reductions where feasible. Demonstrates a commitment to eliminating the structural deficit without increasing taxes. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1002 (Second Reading Amendment #22) Charter School Authorizer Restrictions

Authored by Rep. Sullivan. Would have eliminated private colleges as potential authorizers. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** Multiple authorizers assure greater opportunities for the formation of new charter schools. **Amendment Failed**

HB 1002 (Second Reading Amendment #48) Charter School Transportation Funding

Authored by Rep. Kersey. Would have eliminated a new provision to provide transportation funding for charter schools. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** Proportionate share of transportation funding would have allowed charter schools greater funding parity in comparison to traditional public schools. **Amendment Failed**

HB 1002 (Second Reading Amendment #39) School Board Approval of Charter Schools

Authored by Rep. V. Smith. Would have required that charter school proposals be submitted first to local school boards. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** School boards have shown little willingness to allow new charter schools to be formed; this amendment was simply a proposal for stifling charter school growth. **Amendment Failed**

HB 1002 (Second Reading Amendment #51) Charter School Budgets

Authored by Rep. VanDenburgh. Would have required that charter school budgets be approved by local legislative bodies. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** A primary strength of charter schools is their operational autonomy, but this amendment would have added an unprecedented approval process that exists in no other state. **Amendment Failed**

HB 1002 (Second Reading Amendment #49) Charter School Authorizers

Authored by Rep. Porter. Would have required all charter schools to be approved by the State Board of Education. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** The existence of multiple authorizers is critical to the viability of a state's charter school environment; and this proposal would have effectively eliminated the roles of all but one statewide authorizer. **Amendment Failed**

HB 1002 (Concurrence) Charter School Expansion

Authored by Speaker Bosma. Expands the number of authorizers of charter schools, removes limits imposed on current authorizers, expands funding for virtual charter schools and creates accountability mechanisms for authorizers. **Chamber Position: Support.** Will strengthen Indiana's charter school law and help create more options for parents. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1003 (Second Reading Amendment #46) School Choice Scholarships

Authored by Rep. Behning. Makes students receiving scholarship tax credits eligible for vouchers in subsequent years. **Chamber Position: Support.** Without this provision, students attending kindergarten and first grade in private schools would be ineligible for the voucher in future years. Also relieves pressure from the scholarship tax credit, which has the lowest contribution limits of all similar programs in the country. **Amendment Prevailed**

HB 1003 (Second Reading Amendment #25) School Choice Scholarships Limitations

Authored by Rep. DeLaney. Would have limited voucher participation to only students from failing schools. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** The intent of this bill is to allow parents to find the best schools for their children, with some children in non-failing schools also needing options. **Amendment Failed**

HB 1003 (Second Reading Amendment #41) School Choice Scholarships Limitations

Authored by Rep. Cheatham. Would have limited voucher participation to only students who have failed ISTEP. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** Failure should not be a pre-requisite for parents to choose the best school settings for their children. Options should help avoid failure, not be dependent upon failure. **Amendment Failed**

HB 1003 (Second Reading Amendment #8) School Choice Scholarships Limitations

Authored by Rep. VanDenburgh. Would have limited voucher participation to students who qualify for free/reduced lunch. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** Would have eliminated thousands of families with moderate incomes, who also need options. **Amendment Failed**

HB 1003 (Second Reading Amendment #13) School Choice Scholarships Referenda

Authored by Rep. Battles. Would have required a public referendum to implement school choice. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** The General Assembly does not submit any of its other policy decisions to public referendum, and neither should this policy be determined through that process. **Amendment Failed**

HB 1003 (Second Reading Amendment #40) School Choice Scholarships Limitations

Authored by Rep. Kersey. Would have allowed parents of voucher students to withdraw from "objectionable" courses. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** Amendment would have allowed

students to withdraw from English, math or any other subject if the parents so determined. **Amendment Failed**

HB 1003 (Concurrence) School Choice Scholarships

Authored by Rep. Behning. Provides scholarships to low- and middle-income students to help pay the cost of tuition and fees at a public or private school that charges tuition. **Chamber Position: Support.** Creates more options for parents to select the schools that best fit the unique needs of their individual children. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1004 (Third Reading) Access to State Financial Data

Authored by Rep. Turner. Requires the state auditor and the Office of Management and Budget to work with the Office of Technology to establish a web site with a database of state expenditures and fund balances. **Chamber Position: Support.** The Chamber supports the ongoing efforts to build and expand a web portal that allows taxpayers to see where their dollars are being spent. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1004 (Conference Committee Report) Corporate Income Tax Rate Reduction

Authored by Rep. Turner. Reduction of the corporate income tax rate from 8.5% to 6.5% over four years. (The bill incorporated the provisions of many other tax-related bills that had been considered throughout the session.) **Chamber Position: Support.** Will make Indiana even more competitive by bringing its corporate rate more in line with other states, serving to promote capital investment and economic development. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1005 (Conference Committee Report) Expansion of the Industrial Recovery Tax Credit

Authored by Rep. Clere. Expands the applicability of the industrial recovery income tax credit. **Chamber Position: Support.** Will increase the number of property redevelopments. Restoring unused and underutilized industrial sites serves to expand the tax rolls and promotes economic growth in the community. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1006 (Third Reading) Streamlined Regulatory Filings and Entrepreneurship

Authored by Rep. Crouch. Requires various state agencies to coordinate in the promotion of entrepreneurship, including a new state web site that serves as a one-stop shop to obtain and file all necessary registration, permits and licenses for a new start-up business. Requires inter-agency coordination on economic development and entrepreneurship education. **Chamber Position: Support.** Streamlines regulatory filing requirements for business start-ups and takes reasonable steps to promote entrepreneurship. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1007 (Conference Committee Report) Economic Development Tax Incentives

Authored by Rep. Messmer. Provides a number of new local incentives and economic development tools. **Chamber Position: Support.** The taxation of personal property is a

detriment to economic development and an impediment to capital investment. Providing local units with the option to provide enhanced and alternative assessment of property will improve their ability to entice new investment to their communities. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1008 (Third Reading) Expansion of Venture Capital Investment Credit

Authored by Rep. Torr. Expands credit from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 for qualified Indiana businesses after December 31, 2011. **Chamber Position: Support.** Making venture capital more available to promising start-ups is an essential element in nurturing new business development. The credit has been key to growing the high tech and biotech industries in Indiana. Making it more broadly and readily available can only be viewed as a plus for Indiana's economy. Amended into HB 1004 and **Signed by Governor**

HB 1015 (Conference Committee Report) Long-Term Care Insurance Commissions

Authored by Rep. Torr. Addresses financial requirements that apply to limited purpose subsidiary life insurance companies. Specifies qualifications and educational requirements for solicitation, negotiation and sale of annuities. Makes changes to limitations on long-term care insurance commission amounts. **Chamber Position: Support.** Removal of the commission limitation could encourage more sales of long-term care products, resulting in fewer individuals relying on Medicaid. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1018 (Third Reading) Smoking Ban in Public Places

Authored by Rep. C. Brown. Would have prohibited smoking in the vast majority of public places, exempting bars/taverns, casinos, nursing homes and fraternal clubs. **Chamber Position: Support.** Smoking has a significant, negative financial impact on businesses providing employee health benefits and other work-related costs. **Died**

HB 1022 (Conference Committee Report) Prohibiting Township Government Nepotism and Conflicts of Interest

Authored by Rep. Saunders. Would have prohibited nepotism and conflict of interest for a county, city or town officeholder/candidate; notable exemptions. **Chamber Position: Support.** Would have reduced local government nepotism and potential conflict of interest with an employee of a unit of local government barred from serving on its legislative or fiscal body. **Died**

HB 1024 (Concurrence) Notice of Foreclosure to Insurers; Auto Insurance

Authored by Rep. Lehman. Requires an insurer to provide a written notice of policy cancellation to the named insured at least 20 days before canceling a policy covering residential property if the insurer has received a copy of the complaint filed in the foreclosure action concerning the insured property. Exempts commercial auto policies for non-owned coverage from requiring uninsured and under-insured motorist coverage. **Chamber Position: Support.** When businesses

purchase a commercial policy and select hired non-owned auto coverage, they do not expect to be covering uninsured motorist/ underinsured motorist coverage for employees' use of their own personal vehicles. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1046 (Concurrence)

Property Tax Deduction for New, Unsold Residences

Authored by Rep. Crouch. Provides a 50% property tax deduction to a residential builder for a single family residence, townhouse or condominium that has never been occupied as a principal residence. **Chamber Position: Support.** Recovery of the housing market is of great importance to the recovery of our overall economy. Residential builders were among those hardest hit. This helps this industry by temporarily relieving them from paying taxes on their built but unsold inventory. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1074 (Concurrence)

School Board Elections Moved to General Election

Authored by Rep. Frizzell. Moves school board elections from the primary election to the general election. **Chamber Position: Support.** School boards play critical roles in setting local tax rates and in their oversight of local public schools. Yet, most school board members are elected during primary elections when voter turnout is typically at its lowest. Moving all school board elections to the fall as part of general elections will help increase voter participation and oversight of local public schools. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1112 (Concurrence)

Allowing Land Application of Industrial Waste Products

Authored by Rep. Pond. Permits the application of an industrial waste as a soil additive or fertilizer. **Chamber Position: Support.** The use of byproducts in applications where it is economically prudent does not present an unreasonable risk to public health or the environment. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1128 (Conference Committee Report)

Expansion of Renewable Energy Resources

Authored by Rep. Koch. Adds hydrogen and coal bed methane to the list of renewables. **Chamber Position: Support.** The Chamber supports alternative energy sources that provide additional sources of energy while not presenting an unreasonable risk to our environment. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1129 (Conference Committee Report)

Prohibiting Text Messaging While Driving

Authored by Rep. Koch. A reasonable proposal to deter the dangerous activity of texting while driving. **Chamber Position: Support.** Texting while operating a motor vehicle is a dangerous activity. The penalties are reasonable (an infraction), are limited to texting only and do not interfere with intrastate or interstate commerce. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1130 (Third Reading)

Opportunities to Correct Regulatory Violations

Authored by Rep. Koch. Would have imposed a duty on a state agency under certain circumstances to give an entity an opportunity to correct an alleged violation of law that is

discovered in an inspection. **Chamber Position: Support.** Promotes a positive relationship between the regulatory agencies and Indiana business and industry, and promotes the "assistance before enforcement" philosophy. **Died**

HB 1131 (Third Reading)

Study of Video Service Franchise Fees and Deregulation

Authored by Rep. Koch. Directs the Regulatory Flexibility Committee to study and report findings on the anti-competitive effects of legacy local government unit video service franchise fees on the provision of video service in Indiana, as well as the appropriateness of these fees. **Chamber Position: Support.** This study may lead to further deregulation of telecommunications services in Indiana and eliminate anti-competitive barriers. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1170 (Third Reading)

Restricting Public Safety Local Option Income Tax to Public Safety

Authored by Rep. Morris. Provided that a county or municipality that receives revenue from a local option income tax (LOIT) for public safety must use those funds only for public safety purposes. Public safety LOIT may not be used to reduce or replace revenue devoted to public safety purposes from any other source of revenue. **Chamber Position: Support.** This bill ensures that if a public safety LOIT is used, that it should be used for public safety only. **Died**

HB 1183 (Third Reading)

Indiana Business Price Preferences in State Purchases

Authored by Rep. Dermody. Provides an additional preference for purchases made by a state agency for supplies manufactured, assembled or produced by an Indiana business in Indiana. Provides a price preference for agriculture products grown or produced in Indiana. **Chamber Position: Support.** This bill is a reasonable effort to promote the procurement of Indiana-produced goods and services by Indiana government. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1187 (Concurrence)

Satellite Manure Storage Facilities

Authored by Rep. Davis. Regulates manure storage facilities over a certain size (these storage facilities were not previously regulated). **Chamber Position: Support.** Confined feeding facilities are an important part of the Indiana business community. The Chamber supports giving the state the authority to permit previously unregulated manure facilities that provide a level of environmental protection and management. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1200 (Third Reading)

Immunity for Brownfield Activities

Authored by Rep. Davis. Allows a property owner of one acre or less to pave or plant vegetation without incurring any additional environmental liability. **Chamber Position: Support.** Promotes the cleanup of additional contaminated sites, which would return the sites to the tax rolls and employee Hoosiers. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1203 (Third Reading)

Right to Secret Ballot in Union Elections

Authored by Rep. Ubelhor. Provides the right to vote by secret ballot in union organizing elections. **Chamber Position: Support.** The right to vote by secret ballot is one of our country's most fundamental rights and should be preserved for all elections. Employees shouldn't face intimidation or coercion in voting for union organizing. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1216 (Third Reading)

Common Construction Wage and Project Labor Agreements

Authored by Rep. Davis. Increases threshold that triggers a common construction wage hearing on public construction projects. Authorizes a study committee on union-only project labor agreements. **Chamber Position: Support.** Public construction projects should be open for competitive bidding, not subject to union-only labor agreements. The changes in the common construction wage statute for public projects will produce taxpayer savings. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1221 (Concurrence)

Life Insurance and Medicaid

Authored by Rep. T. Brown. Allows the state to use federal or state Medicaid funds to pay life insurance premiums and expenses for a Medicaid applicant or recipient who has irrevocably named the state as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or assigned a life insurance policy to the state. **Chamber Position: Support.** If the state is beneficiary to a life insurance policy, this could be an opportunity to recoup additional Medicaid expenditures. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1233 (Conference Committee Report)

Insurance and Worker's Compensation Study Committee

Authored by Rep. Wolkins. Creates the Insurance Interim Study Committee to examine insurance issues and worker's compensation. **Chamber Position: Support.** A standing interim insurance committee could study issues that have a financial impact on employers, as examples: worker's comp., billing under arrangement and health insurance network issues. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1251 (Third Reading)

Young Entrepreneur Program

Authored by Rep. Ellspermann. Requires the Indiana Economic Development Corporation to establish a young entrepreneurs program to promote the business proposals of students in entrepreneurial programs at state educational institutions. Provides that the program include an auction process for communities to bid for the opportunity to locate a young entrepreneur's start-up business in their community. **Chamber Position: Support.** This is an innovative plan to spur economic growth and build Hoosiers' entrepreneurial skills while leveraging taxpayer investments in higher education. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1260 (Concurrence)

School Corporation Health Insurance

Authored by Rep. Dermody. Specifies certain requirements and recommendations for school corporation employee health coverage programs. Attempts to get public school health

insurance plan costs more under control, including eventually switching coverage to the state plan. **Chamber Position: Support.** Creates limits on the "richness" of school health care plans – the cost of which are exploding annually. Potentially lessens financial costs to the state. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1267 (Third Reading)

Drug Testing and Unemployment Benefits

Authored by Rep. Kubacki. Provides that an individual who is required to undergo drug testing as a condition of an offer of employment and who files an initial claim for unemployment benefits must be advised that the individual is disqualified for benefits if the person is found to have a positive drug test or refuses to submit to a drug test. **Chamber Position: Support.** Persons abusing drugs should not be permitted to collect unemployment benefits. Amended into SB 86 and **Signed by Governor**

HB 1275 (Third Reading)

Using Economic Development Tax Funds for Other Purposes

Authored by Rep. Saunders. Authorizes a county, city or town to transfer money from its economic development income tax fund or rainy day fund to its general fund or any fund or account of the county, city or town. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** There is no justification for making it easier to transfer monies that are collected under the guise of promoting economic development to be transferred to other funds for unrelated purposes. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1325 (Conference Committee Report)

Identification Requirements for Alcohol Purchases

Authored by Rep. Steuerwald. Alters the identification requirement at liquor stores to someone "who is or reasonably appears to be less than 40 years of age" before a purchase is made. **Chamber Position: Support.** Indiana's onerous law requiring persons and businesses selling alcoholic beverages to seek identification/proof of age from all purchasers should be repealed. Employee training, use of common sense and good faith efforts to seek identification are sufficient. The current (and recently enacted) law has proven unworkable and unpopular. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1340 (Third Reading)

Realignment of Adult Education Administration

Authored by Rep. Behning. Better aligns the Department of Education, State Board of Education, Department of Workforce Development and State Workforce Innovation Council to provide greater effectiveness in delivering adult education opportunities. **Chamber Position: Support.** Nearly one million Hoosier adults lack the basic skills that are needed for success in today's economy. This bill realigns the state's training programs to serve those adults more effectively. Many changes are consistent with the recommendations of a Chamber policy report and a 2009 bipartisan study committee. **Signed by Governor**

HB 1341 (Third Reading)

Special Education Grants for Private Schools

Authored by Rep. Behning. Requires public school districts to expend proportionate shares of their state special education

grants on students in nonpublic schools whose needs generated the state funds. **Chamber Position: Support.** Federal law requires that the funding generated by private school students for special needs must be spent on private school students, but current state law does not so public schools can keep the funds. Requiring these funds to be spent on the students who generated them will provide parents with more options, assure that privately-placed special needs students are better served and provide better opportunities for special needs students to be enrolled in private schools. **Signed by Governor**

**HB 1369 (Second Reading Amendment #1)
Pay for Performance Program for School Administrators**

Authored by Rep. Austin. Would have deleted proposed licensing flexibility for school superintendents. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** The duties of a school superintendent extend well beyond the education training that is the focus of their licensing requirements, and school boards ought to have greater flexibility to hire as superintendents the individuals with the best overall qualifications. **Amendment Failed**

**HB 1369 (Second Reading Amendment #2)
Pay for Performance Program for School Administrators**

Authored by Rep. Porter. Would have eliminated the use of student test scores as a criterion for the evaluation of school administrators. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** Student achievement is the primary purpose of schools; therefore, student achievement ought to be a leading factor in evaluating the adults who run our schools. **Amendment Failed**

**HB 1369 (Conference Committee Report)
Pay for Performance Program for School Administrators**

Authored by Rep. Soliday. Would have provided school districts with greater flexibility in the hiring of their school leaders and would have required schools to implement performance pay for school administrators. **Chamber Position: Support.** As the state considers performance pay for teachers, consistency demands similar incentives for school leaders. Additionally, given that superintendent jobs require knowledge and skills that go well beyond teaching, school boards should have the option to hire district leaders from a broader set of applicants. **Died**

**HB 1429 (Third Reading)
Deregulation of Textbooks and Other Curricular Material**

Authored by Rep. Yarde. Expands definition of "textbook" to include certain hardware, software and digital content. Adds a definition of "curricular materials" and requires the Department of Education to review them. Requires governing body of each school corporation to adopt textbooks for the school corporation. **Chamber Position: Support.** Provides flexibility for schools to use the best curriculum materials available and eliminates bureaucratic oversight by the state. **Signed by Governor**

**HB 1435 (Third Reading)
Amended Personal Property Tax Returns**

Authored by Rep. Davis. Extends the time period to amend personal property tax returns from six months to one year.

Chamber Position: Support. Many taxpayers do not discover errors in their prior year's return until they begin preparing their current year return and under current law are denied recovery. This bill avoids the harsh treatment disallowing amendments after only six months. (Nearly every other tax allows amendments for a period of years rather than just six months.) Amended into HB 1004 and **Signed by Governor**

**HB 1450 (Third Reading)
Reduction of Unemployment Insurance Tax Increases**

Authored by Rep. Leonard. Mitigates effects of unemployment tax increase on all employers by placing them in Schedule E (a much lower rate scale) through 2020. Reduces benefits to the long-term jobless to incentivize them to truly seek and then accept employment. **Chamber Position: Support.** As of January 13, 2011, Indiana had borrowed almost \$2 billion from the federal unemployment trust fund in order to pay benefits to unemployed Hoosiers. Indiana needs to start paying off this loan and the associated interest. This bill addresses some of the eligibility and benefit issues. **Signed by Governor**

**HB 1451 (Third Reading)
Mint Distilling Operations Study**

Authored by Rep. Dermody. Requires the Environmental Quality Service Council to study air emissions of mint distilling operations and report findings and recommendations to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. **Chamber Position: Support.** Indiana is the third largest state in the production of mint. This measure creates a level of protection from unnecessary regulation while a summer study committee reviews, studies and makes recommendations related to the air emissions of the mint distilling operations. **Signed by Governor**

**HB 1457 (Third Reading)
Clean Energy Improvement Financing District**

Authored by Rep. Neese. Would have required the Environmental Quality Service Council to study clean energy improvement financing districts. Requires the council to study and make recommendations concerning subordination of interests of lienholders. **Chamber Position: Support.** Promotes energy conservation as a method to decrease our energy demand and promotes cost savings for Indiana businesses and industries. **Died**

**HB 1486 (Third Reading)
Insurance Administration Matters**

Authored by Rep. Lehman. Makes various changes concerning insurance law and administration, including financial audits and reporting, licensing, HMOs and small employer health insurance plans. **Chamber Position: Support.** Important updates to insurance rules and administration sought by the Department of Insurance. Much of this language brings Indiana law into sync with the National Association of Insurance Commission standards. **Signed by Governor**

**HB 1538 (Third Reading)
Limiting Living Wage Rules**

Authored by Rep. Speedy. Prohibits a local unit of government from setting a minimum wage that exceeds the state or federal minimum wage. **Chamber Position: Support.** Existing state

and federal minimum wage levels should continue to be utilized; local wage laws in excess of those levels would result in job losses. **Signed by Governor**

**SB 1 (Second Reading Amendment #27)
Teacher Performance Evaluations**

Authored by Rep. Sullivan. Would have required 75% of teachers to approve the school district's teacher evaluation plan for it to be approved. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** Would have required a super-majority to approve a teacher evaluation plan. Teachers and their union would have gained a virtual veto on their own performance evaluation plans. **Amendment prevailed but was removed later in the session.**

**SB 1 (Second Reading Amendment #29)
Teacher Performance and Testing**

Authored by Rep. V. Smith. Would have required psychometric evaluation of ISTEP for use in the evaluation of teachers. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** Amendment attempted to perpetuate current ban on consideration of student test scores by requiring a vague affirmation process that such use is appropriate. **Amendment Failed**

**SB 1 (Second Reading Amendment #35)
Teacher Performance**

Authored by Rep. Kersey. Would have required teacher evaluation processes to be included in collective bargaining. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** Would have countered efforts in SB 575 to limit collective bargaining to wage and wage-related benefits only. **Amendment Failed**

**SB 1 (Second Reading Amendment #14)
Teacher Performance**

Authored by Rep. Austin. Would have reinstated schools of education as the only potential sources for teacher licensing. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** Would have reversed recently passed rules adopted by the Indiana Professional Standards Board that eliminated the monopoly on the teaching field that had been established by schools of education. **Amendment Failed**

**SB 1 (Second Reading Amendment #8)
Teacher Performance**

Authored by Rep. Porter. Would have excluded the performance of special education students and English language learners from being considered in teacher evaluations. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** Many of the students that would have been excluded are capable of learning but would have been ignored as a result of their exclusion. Moreover, the plans being implemented for teacher evaluations consider growth, not raw performance, and will take into account the learning challenges related to these sizeable groups. **Amendment Failed**

**SB 1 (Third Reading)
Teacher Performance-Based Evaluations and Pay**

Sponsored by Rep. Behning. Provides for performance-based pay. Restructures teacher evaluation processes to include measures of student performance. Eliminates layoff procedures and salary schedules based entirely on seniority. Creates teacher evaluation categories with consequences. **Chamber**

Position: Support. Improves the evaluation process and accountability provisions for teachers. **Signed by Governor**

**SB 26 (Third Reading)
Local Government Reorganization and Merger**

Sponsored by Rep. Truitt. Allows a political subdivision to retain a part of its levy and budget that would otherwise be reduced because of savings from a government reorganization or township merger. **Chamber Position: Support.** Allows local units of government to defray one-time transition costs from a possible merger that would come from the projected savings from the current levy. It enhances the potential for other local government mergers. **Signed by Governor**

**SB 32 (Third Reading)
Vote Center Option for All Counties**

Sponsored by Rep. Truitt. Establishes the use of vote centers as an option for all counties. **Chamber Position: Support.** Vote centers have been tested in several Indiana counties for several years with great success. They enhance convenience for voters and reduce the cost of elections. **Signed by Governor**

**SB 47 (Third Reading)
Various Riverboat Matters**

Sponsored by Rep. Davis. Permits a licensed owner to convert a riverboat into a permanently moored vessel without propulsion or navigation equipment. **Chamber Position: Support.** There is no point in requiring these businesses to comply with expensive regulations related to excursion boats when they are permanently moored. The state has become dependent on revenues from these operations and they should not be unduly hampered. **Signed by Governor**

**SB 54 (Third Reading)
Local Regulation of Video Service Franchises**

Sponsored by Rep. Soliday. Provides that a local unit of government may not: (1) regulate a holder of a certificate to provide, or a provider of, video service; and (2) establish or fund an entity to regulate a holder or provider. **Chamber Position: Support.** Will lead to further deregulation of telecommunications services and eliminate needless local government bureaucracy. **Signed by Governor**

**SB 66 (Third Reading)
Expansion of Renewable Energy Resources**

Sponsored by Rep. Wolkins. Creates additional renewable energy resources for statute that provides financial incentives for clean coal and energy projects. **Chamber Position: Support.** The Chamber supports a cost-effective fuel mix including clean coal technologies, natural gas, domestic petroleum, nuclear and renewables. An expansion of renewables that allows flexibility and diversity helps promote the state's renewable portfolio. **Signed by Governor**

**SB 71 (Third Reading)
Coal Bed Methane and Other Oil and Gas Issues**

Sponsored by Rep. Eberhart. Creates numerous conditions that affect the mining of coal bed methane. **Chamber Position: Support.** The Chamber supports the use of coal bed methane as a viable

source of energy so long as its extraction is done in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. **Signed by Governor**

SB 78 (Conference Committee Report)
Identification Requirements for Alcohol Purchases

Sponsored by Rep. Steuerwald. Makes it a Class B misdemeanor for an alcoholic beverage permittee or an employee or agent to recklessly, knowingly or intentionally sell, barter, exchange, provide or furnish another person who is or reasonably appears to be less than 40 years of age an alcoholic beverage without first requiring the person to produce specified identification showing that the person is at least 21 years of age. **Chamber Position: Support.** The Indiana Chamber supports repeal of Indiana's onerous law requiring persons and businesses selling alcoholic beverages to seek identification/proof of age from all purchasers. Employee training, use of common sense and good faith efforts to seek identification are sufficient. The current (and recently enacted) law has proven unworkable and unpopular. **Signed by Governor**

SB 86 (Third Reading)
Unemployment Benefits Qualifications and Controlled Substances

Sponsored by Rep. Leonard. An applicant for employment that fails or refuses to take a drug test as a condition of employment is deemed to have refused suitable work and is denied unemployment benefits. **Chamber Position: Support.** Persons abusing drugs should not be permitted to collect unemployment benefits. **Signed by Governor**

SB 159 (Third Reading)
Streamlined Environmental Rulemaking

Sponsored by Rep. Wolkins. Provides that, if the state adopts a federal rule that later should be invalidated the state has an expedited process to remove the invalidated state rule. **Chamber Position: Support.** The Chamber supports the repeal of any rule for which the federal directive no longer exists. Such a rule should not be enforced and the state should repeal the rule as soon as possible. **Signed by Governor**

SB 200 (Third Reading)
IDEM Administrative Issuance of Water Permits

Sponsored by Rep. Wolkins. Transfers the power to issue water permits from the Water Pollution Control Board to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). Also contains provisions related to coal mine general permits. **Chamber Position: Support.** Satisfies a concern of the EPA to not have the Water Board issue permits but to move that responsibility to IDEM. The Chamber supports the timely and fair issuance of permits. **Signed by Governor**

SB 292 (Conference Committee Report)
Guns in Public Buildings

Sponsored by Rep. Speedy. Prohibits units of local government from maintaining policies prohibiting guns from being brought into public buildings. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** To protect public safety, a unit of government has the right to prohibit guns from being brought into public buildings. **Signed by Governor**

SB 346 (Third Reading)
Statute of Limitations in Underground Storage Tank Cleanup

Sponsored by Rep. Wolkins. Establishes a clear starting point for the statute of limitations in cases where a cleanup from underground storage tanks is needed. **Chamber Position: Support.** As the court system has no clear and consistent point at which the statute of limitations begins, the efficient cleanup of contaminated properties is impaired. Identifies a consistent date from which the party cleaning up a site may go back (10 years) to recover costs from responsible parties. **Signed by Governor**

SB 381 (Conference Committee Report)
Tax Representatives

Sponsored by Rep. Friend. Provides that certain local officials of a county or their employees may not serve as a tax representative for any taxpayer with respect to property subject to property taxes in the same county before the county property tax assessment board of appeals of that county or the Indiana Board of Tax Review. **Chamber Position: Support.** Reduces the potential for conflicts of interest and appearance of improprieties associated with contractual relationships between tax representatives and county officials involved in property tax appeals. **Signed by Governor**

SB 411 (Third Reading)
Disclosure of Guns in the Workplace

Sponsored by Rep. Eberhart. Prohibits employers from obtaining information as to whether employees are bringing guns to work. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** An employer has the right to know whether someone has brought a firearm onto the employer's property. Current law already provides a remedy for an employee who believes that he has been discriminated against because he brought a firearm onto the employer's property. **Signed by Governor**

SB 433 (Third Reading)
Clarification of IDEM Duties and Authority

Sponsored by Rep. Wolkins. Addresses multiple issues related to IDEM activities to create efficiencies, clarification and makes technical corrections. **Chamber Position: Support.** Clarifies and creates efficiencies that will allow IDEM to perform more effectively. **Signed by Governor**

SB 459 (Third Reading)
Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Conformity for Internet Sales

Sponsored by Rep. Espich. Brings the state into compliance with the Streamlined Sale and Use Tax Agreement and promotes effort to collect Internet sales tax. **Chamber Position: Support.** The Chamber supports conformance with the streamlined sales tax effort. Indiana's agreement to participate in this national program promotes sales tax law uniformity and the voluntary collection of taxes by Internet retailers. **Signed by Governor**

SB 461 (Conference Committee Report)
Health Care Reform Matters

Sponsored by Rep. T. Brown. Makes changes to Medicaid and insurance statutes to comply with the federal Patient

Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). **Chamber Position: Support.** This bill makes changes to existing law regarding Medicaid and insurance provisions in order to conform to the federal PPACA. **Signed by Governor**

**SB 473 (Second Reading Amendment #2)
Prohibition on Public-Private Partnerships (P3) With Foreign Companies**

Authored by Rep. Reske. Would have prohibited the state from entering into a public-private partnership (P3) agreement with any firm headquartered in a foreign country. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** The amendment was unnecessary, protectionist and would have restricted opportunities for significant P3 agreements. **Amendment Failed**

**SB 473 (Second Reading Amendment #54)
Public-Private Partnership (P3) Authorization Restrictions**

Authored by Rep. Crawford. Would have prohibited the state from using any financial proceeds from a P3 agreement without express authorization and appropriation by the Indiana General Assembly. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** The amendment was unnecessary and would have undermined the state's financial flexibility and road management authority. **Amendment Failed**

**SB 473 (Second Reading Amendment #47)
Diverting Public-Private Partnership (P3) Proceeds**

Authored by Rep. DeLaney. Would have diverted any P3 proceeds from road- and bridge-building to mass transit, light rail and bicycle paths. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** Would have diverted funds from roads, highways and bridges used to speed commercial activity. **Amendment Failed**

**SB 473 (Second Reading Amendment #71)
Public-Private Partnership (P3) Approval by Local Planning Entities**

Authored by Rep. Austin. Would have required any P3 agreements to be adopted by local metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs). **Chamber Position: Oppose.** Would have effectively given local MPOs veto authority over any P3 agreement entered into by the state. **Amendment Failed**

**SB 473 (Conference Committee Report)
Public-Private Partnership (P3) Authorization**

Sponsored by Rep. Soliday. Among other provisions, authorizes the governor to enter into public-private partnerships (P3s) for the purpose of building new or expanded roads and transportation infrastructure. Requires State Budget Committee review of any P3 agreements that include tolls while prohibiting tolls on I-69 and existing roadways without explicit authorization from the General Assembly. **Chamber Position: Support.** Expanded P3 authority will bring much-needed private sector investment to the state's remaining infrastructure needs while spurring economic growth and job creation. **Signed by Governor**

**SB 480 (Third Reading)
Telecommunication Data and Deregulation**

Sponsored by Rep. Koch. Authorizes the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) to delegate authority to its staff

to carry out certain duties and limits the information that communications service providers have to include in applications for certificates of territorial authority. Grants jurisdiction to resolve certain matters concerning video service franchises to the IURC rather than a court with jurisdiction. **Chamber Position: Support.** Furthers telecom reform and safeguards proprietary competitive information in a reasonable way, while promoting further investments in the state's telecommunications infrastructure. **Signed by Governor**

**SB 496 (Third Reading)
Parental Petitions for School Reorganization**

Sponsored by Rep. Noe. Would have empowered parents of students in chronically failing schools to petition to reorganize the school. **Chamber Position: Support.** Indiana's accountability timeline allows schools to fail for at least six consecutive years before state officials can intervene. This policy would have provided parents several options for intervening sooner than the state timeline and to initiate school reform efforts on behalf of their children. **Died**

**SB 497 (Third Reading)
Early High School Graduation, Higher Education Scholarship**

Sponsored by Rep. Noe. Allows a high school senior to graduate after three years of high school and to use part of their state tuition support to begin college. **Chamber Position: Support.** The vast majority of Hoosier jobs now and in the future will require post-secondary education. This proposal will assist and incentivize students who are ready for college-level work to begin those pursuits. Amended into HB 1001 and **Signed by Governor**

**SB 524 (Third Reading)
Public Pensions Defined Contribution Plan**

Sponsored by Rep. Torr. Establishes a defined contribution plan as an option for new state employees who elect not to become a member of the public employees' retirement fund (PERF). Urges the Legislative Council to assign to the Pension Management Oversight Commission the study of whether to create a defined contribution plan as an option for new employees participating in PERF or teachers' retirement fund (TRF). **Chamber Position: Support.** Alternatives for new employees to elect a defined contribution plan rather than the current PERF and TRF programs offer the potential for savings and should be considered and implemented to the extent deemed practical. **Signed by Governor**

**SB 526 (Second Reading Amendment #9)
Weakening Marion County Government Reforms**

Authored by Rep. Pryor. Would have deleted many of the reform measures in SB 526 and watered down the bill. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** This amendment kept the unnecessary role of the ex-officio county commissioners for the board appointments they make for several Marion County boards. **Amendment Failed**

**SB 526 (Second Reading Amendment #6)
Weakening Marion County Government Reforms**

Authored by Rep. Bartlett. Would have put the local government reform measures in this bill up to a voter referendum. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** Would have taken the decisions being considered by legislators and transferred them to voters. The wording on the proposed ballot question favored keeping things the same, rather than for reform. **Amendment Failed**

**SB 526 (Conference Committee Report)
Marion County Government Reforms**

Sponsored by Rep. Hinkle. Would have eliminated advisory boards and transferred township budget oversight to the City-County Council. Also unified Marion County poor relief standards. Made other changes to follow along the lines of UniGov. **Chamber Position: Support.** Would have made progress in consolidating township functions in Marion County. **Died**

**SB 559 (Third Reading)
Conflict of Interest**

Sponsored by Rep. Koch. Specifies certain definitions and defenses that apply to the crime of conflict of interest. **Chamber Position: Support.** Good conflict of interest language for public servants to abide by. **Signed by Governor**

**SB 575 (Second Reading Amendment #75)
Limiting Teacher Collective Bargaining**

Authored by Rep. Behning. Added prohibitions banning bargaining on teacher evaluations and on contracts that extend beyond the state budget biennium. **Chamber Position: Support.** Bargaining of teacher evaluation provisions would have effectively eliminated school districts' ability to improve teacher evaluations. Given that school districts do not know the level of their base funding beyond the current state budget, they should not make financial commitments in their operations that could exceed the funds available to them. **Amendment Prevailed**

**SB 575 (Second Reading Amendment #54)
Teacher Collective Bargaining**

Authored by Rep. Cheatham. Would have allowed collective bargaining of school funds other than general operating dollars and loosened the definitions of deficit financing, which is prohibited in collective bargaining. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** The wages and wage-related benefits negotiated in teacher contracts should not extend beyond the funds that have been appropriated for such purposes. **Amendment Failed**

**SB 575 (Second Reading Amendment #17)
Teacher Collective Bargaining**

Authored by Rep. Kersey. Would have grandfathered contracts that had been negotiated prior to the 1973 collective bargaining law. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** The provisions that this amendment would have incorporated are nearly four decades old and ought to be allowed to finally expire so that local labor agreements can begin anew. **Amendment Failed**

**SB 575 (Second Reading Amendment #25)
Teacher Collective Bargaining**

Authored by Rep. VanDenburgh. Would have restored working conditions to the issues that are included in the collective bargaining process. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** It is provisions like these that have paralyzed school leaders and would have continued to prevent school leaders from managing their schools. **Amendment Failed**

**SB 575 (Second Reading Amendment #28)
Teacher Collective Bargaining**

Authored by Rep. VanDenburgh. Would have subjected teacher evaluation to collective bargaining. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** Unions have steadfastly opposed the use of student academic data in the evaluation of teachers and would have used the collective bargaining process to prevent what is finally to be allowed through state law. **Amendment Failed**

**SB 575 (Second Reading Amendment #26)
Teacher Collective Bargaining**

Authored by Rep. VanDenburgh. Would have subjected hours of school operation to collective bargaining. **Chamber Position: Oppose.** The past inclusion of hours in collective bargaining has been used as a detrimental tool for keeping school leaders from managing their schools effectively and efficiently. **Amendment Failed**

**SB 575 (Third Reading)
Limiting Teacher Collective Bargaining**

Sponsored by Rep. Behning. Limits collective bargaining to wages and benefits. **Chamber Position: Support.** Scales back a range of union practices that prevent schools from operating effectively and efficiently. **Signed by Governor**

**SB 576 (Conference Committee Report)
Worker's Compensation Administration**

Sponsored by Rep. Lehman. Requires all members of the Worker's Compensation Board be attorneys in good standing admitted to the practice of law in Indiana. Requires a health care provider to file a claim for payment with the board not later than one year after the last date the provider provided services to an injured employee. Requires the board to establish a schedule of fees and charges for the resolution of health care provider claims. **Chamber Position: Support.** Most of the changes would enable the board to operate in a more efficient manner. The time limits for filing claims will hopefully lead to quicker resolution of claims. **Signed by Governor**

**SB 589 (Third Reading)
Corporate Income Tax Rate Reduction**

Sponsored by Rep. Turner. Reduced the corporate income tax rate from 8.5% to 6.5%; phased in over four years. **Chamber Position: Support.** This is an important effort to make Indiana even more competitive by bringing its corporate rate more in line with other states. Amended into HB 1004 and **Signed by Governor**