

# Legislative Agenda

## Chamber Outlines Bill Positions

By Kevin Brinegar, president and CEO, Indiana Chamber of Commerce

This **first edition** of the Indiana Chamber's 2019 *Legislative Agenda* continues an evolving public policy process for the organization and the state's business community.

Chamber policy committees, composed of statewide volunteer leaders, meet throughout the year. They identify key issues, research the topics and help define policy positions, which are adopted each fall by the Chamber's Board of Directors.

The organization's policy positions are outlined in the annual *Legislative Business Issues* publication, with the 2019 edition presented to all members of the General Assembly at the beginning of the current session. *Legislative Agenda* matches those policy positions with specific feedback on the bills introduced in the House and Senate.

This publication provides clear input on issues that not only affect the Indiana business community, but communities, families and individuals throughout the state. We strive to provide you

with a clear understanding of our positions on key bills that will assist you as you proceed during this legislative session.

Please contact me or any of the members of our government affairs team with questions about this *Legislative Agenda*.

**NOTES:** This first edition considers all bills as of 1/28. The absence of a bill from this list does not mean the Indiana Chamber has, or will have, no position on the legislation. The review process continues throughout the legislative session.



= Chamber priority bills



= bills designated as "job killers"

## HOUSE BILLS

**HB 1001 BIENNIAL BUDGET (Huston)**  
Establishes the state budget for the next two fiscal years (FY20 and FY21). Appropriates money for capital expenditures, the operation of the state, K-12 and higher education, the delivery of Medicaid and other services, and various other distributions and purposes. Provides for bonding authority for capital projects for higher education institutions. makes a great variety of changes to state monetary matters.  
**Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports the overall sound and balanced approach this budget reflects by funding critical needs within the means of the state based on projected revenues and maintaining a prudent level of reserve funds to guard against the ramifications of an economic downturn. More specifically, the Chamber supports the funding for the Department of Local Government Finance to establish an online portal for business personal property taxpayers to file their returns.

Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887

**HB 1002 CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MATTERS (Sullivan)**



Establishes the career coaching grant program and fund. Provides that the Governor's Workforce Cabinet shall administer the grant program and fund. Provides that the skills enhancement fund may be used to support cooperative arrangements between school corporations or charter schools and businesses if the cooperative arrangement leads to: (1) a postsecondary credential for a new hire; or (2) an increase of wages and a postsecondary credential for an incumbent employee. Provides that the cabinet shall receive, distribute and account for all funds received for career and technical education under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Act. ... **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** Proposal contains a number of provisions, most of which emanated from the Governor's Workforce Cabinet. The Chamber supports provisions which provide an increased focus/emphasis on quality career-technical education programming at the K-12 level and expanding the Next Level

Jobs grant programs. However, provisions that would consolidate additional authority under the Workforce Cabinet are questionable and may need to be revisited in future legislative sessions, especially with other pending proposals that call for moving up the appointment date of the superintendent of public instruction and re-establishing Indiana's Education Roundtable.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1003 SCHOOL CORPORATION EXPENDITURE TARGETS (DeVon)

Requires the education employment relations board to annually prepare, publish and submit a report to the budget committee and the Legislative Council that covers various employment information for school employees. Provides that a school corporation shall make every reasonable effort to budget and spend for its education fund so that no more than 15% of the revenue deposited in its education fund is transferred to its operations fund. Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to identify and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to notify those school corporations that transfer more than the 15% amount for the previous school year. Requires DOE and OMB to publish on their web sites a list of those school corporations exceeding the 15% transfer amount. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports efforts to ensure greater transparency in school corporation expenditures of state funding with a priority on driving dollars to the classroom, including teacher salaries and academic programming tied directly to student achievement.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1005 STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (Bosma)



Amends the date on which the office of the state superintendent of public instruction is abolished. Provides for the appointment of the secretary of education by the Governor beginning January 11, 2021. (Current law provides that the Governor does not appoint the secretary of education until January 11, 2025.) **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber has a longstanding position in favor of the state superintendent of public instruction being an appointed rather than elected position to ensure policy alignment with the Governor's education priorities, as well as that of the other state education/workforce agencies that are either appointed directly by the Governor or by board appointees of the Governor. As such, the Chamber supports moving up the appointment date from 2025 to 2021.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1008 TEACHER CAREER LADDERS (Behning)

Makes changes to the requirements necessary for a school corporation to receive a grant from the teacher and student advancement grant program supported by a proposed appropriation of \$5 million from the state's general fund for

grants to local schools. The proposed program changes aim to improve teacher retention rates by establishing a pay progression system based on teachers' demonstrated effectiveness and level of responsibility (mentor, leader, etc.) rather than the traditional measures of education level and years of experience. Provides that not later than July 1, 2020, and each July 1 thereafter, the department shall submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly regarding the program. Repeals provisions relating to the career pathways and mentorship program as well as provisions relating to the Indiana new educator induction pilot program. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Proposal is consistent with the Chamber's support of pay-for-performance systems and efforts that attract and retain highly-effective educators who ensure students are prepared to meet the needs of employers and thrive in a 21st century economy.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1009 TEACHER RESIDENCY GRANT PILOT PROGRAM (DeVon)

Establishes the teacher residency grant pilot program with an initial state appropriation of \$1 million to be administered by the Commission for Higher Education (CHE). Provides that the commission may award grants to school corporations/charter schools that partner with an approved postsecondary educational institution to establish and implement a teacher residency program that meets certain requirements. The program provides stipends for experienced teachers who help train/mentor new teachers for a period of one year. Require CHE to submit a report regarding the pilot program and the retention and performance of program participants. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports implementation/expansion of proven practices that increase teacher retention and instructional effectiveness in the classroom.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1012 PRODUCT LIABILITY ACTIONS (Torr)

Specifies causes of action that may constitute a product liability action. Repeals provisions pertaining to product liability actions that are based on: (1) property damage resulting from asbestos; and (2) personal injury, disability, disease or death resulting from exposure to asbestos. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** In 2016, the Indiana Supreme Court determined that the Statute of Repose for Product Liability for Asbestos was determined unconstitutional. This bill is the fix; without it, asbestos does not fall under Indiana's product liability statute. Further, it opens up Hoosier businesses to unnecessary litigation, making Indiana's legal environment less friendly for jobs and investment.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1016 BATTERY ON A UTILITY WORKER (Bacon, Moseley)

This bill makes battery on a utility worker a Level 6 felony instead of a Class B misdemeanor if the battery is committed

against a utility worker engaged in the ordinary course of the utility worker's employment. Makes the offense a Level 5 felony if the battery involved the placement of any bodily fluid on a utility worker and the person knew or recklessly failed to know that the bodily fluid was infected with hepatitis, tuberculosis or human immunodeficiency virus. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** By adding utility employees to the same section in statute of crimes against law enforcement officers, it provides additional needed protection to workers that often interface with people in difficult situations without the ability to protect themselves.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### HB 1020 BIAS/HATE CRIMES (Cook)

Makes it an aggravated circumstance (for purposes of imposing a criminal sentence) that the crime was committed with the intent to harm or intimidate an individual or a group of individuals because of certain perceived or actual characteristics of the individual or group of individuals. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber strongly supports enactment of a bias/hate crimes statute that would allow judges to impose enhancements to criminal sentences in cases where there is clear evidence that the crime was motivated by a bias towards an individual or group of individuals. In particular, the Chamber wants this statute enacted to remove Indiana from a short list of states that do not have a bias/hate crimes law. Enactment of this statute is important to enhancing Indiana's image as a welcoming state so that employers can recruit talent of all races, religions, ethnicity and lifestyles. It is the Chamber's strong preference that this statute include a list of specific protected individuals and that list be as comprehensive as possible and, in particular, include sexual preference and gender identity. That said, it is most important this session that the General Assembly enacts a bias/hate crimes statute so that Indiana will not conspicuously remain as one of the few states without one.

**Contact: Kevin Brinegar (317) 264-6882**



#### HB 1027 WIND FARM CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (Saunders)

This bill amends the statute that establishes the criminal offense of conflict of interest by a public servant to provide that a public servant who serves a unit in which a proposed wind farm development is being considered commits an offense under the statute if either of the following apply: (1) The public servant knowingly has a pecuniary interest in or will derive a profit from a contract or purchase related to the proposed wind farm development; (2) The wind farm developer does or offers to do, certain specified acts related to the proposed wind farm development and involving the public servant's role as a public official. Provides that a public servant does not commit an offense under the statute if the public servant makes a written disclosure that describes the nature of the conflict of interest. Requires a wind farm developer that seeks to install or locate one or more wind

power devices in a unit to make certain disclosures regarding conflicts of interest involving elected or unelected officials with respect to the proposed project. .... **Position: OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports the transparency of the process for local government officials that have a financial interest or conflict of interest for something they are potentially voting on. However, we oppose the singling out of one industry for this purpose.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### HB 1031 CERTIFICATE OF EMPLOYABILITY (Harris)

Provides that a court shall issue a certificate of employability to persons convicted of misdemeanors and Class D or Level 6 felonies under certain circumstances, and that a court may issue a certificate of employability to persons convicted of certain more serious felonies. Excludes sex and violent offenders and persons convicted of specified serious crimes. Provides immunity to employers in negligent hiring cases who hire persons with a certificate of employability. Establishes a procedure to petition for a certificate of employability and requires payment of the civil filing fee to petition for a certificate of employability. Provides that a petition for a certificate of employability may be filed not earlier than: (1) six months after the date of conviction, in the case of a misdemeanor; (2) one year after the date of conviction, in the case of Class D or Level 6 felonies; (3) three years after the date of conviction or one year after the date the sentence is completed, in the case of more serious felonies; and (4) six years after the date of conviction or two years after the date the sentence is completed, in the case of the most serious felonies. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports efforts to increase the pool of available workers in Indiana, to smooth the transition back into the workforce for those who have paid their debt to society and to provide liability protections for businesses that opt to offer employment opportunities to these individuals.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1042 TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES AND BOARD MEMBERS (Bacon)

Provides that in a county other than Marion County, an individual may not be a candidate for township trustee or a member of the township board if a member of the individual's immediate family (parent, sibling or spouse) is the township trustee or a member of the township board and whose term of office does not end after that election. Provides that in a county other than Marion County, if an immediate family member of a candidate for election to a township board is elected as the township trustee, the candidate for election to the township board is not elected to the township board (if the township board candidate would otherwise be elected). ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Anti-nepotism provisions function to avoid what constitute inherent conflicts of interest and protect the integrity of



governmental operations.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### HB 1061 ATTORNEY'S FEES (Leonard)

Requires a court to award attorney's fees to the prevailing party in all civil actions. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Requiring the loser to pay attorney's fees will cut down on the number of frivolous and unnecessary lawsuits.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1062 UNEMPLOYMENT MATTERS (Leonard)

Makes various changes to unemployment compensation law concerning confidentiality, the method of sending notices to claimants and employers, the removal of the cap on expenditures from the special employment and training services fund, employing units subject to the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, as well as appeals regarding seasonal determinations. Updates and eliminates outdated language.

Makes technical corrections. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports the technical corrections and updates, method of notices to claimants and the disclosure of confidentiality. Instead of removing the cap for the pension and insurance fund, the Chamber would prefer to see the excess funds be transferred to the unemployment insurance trust fund. However, we are willing to support the cap removal if there is substantial evidence to warrant the measure.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1073 PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH DISCRIMINATION (Engleman)

Prohibits an employer from discriminating against a pregnant job applicant or employee. Requires an employer to provide reasonable employment accommodations for a pregnant employee. Requires the Civil Rights Commission to investigate complaints and attempt to resolve complaints. **Position:**

**OPPOSE Reason:** This bill is unnecessary under the Pregnancy Discrimination Act as an employer cannot fire, refuse to hire, demote or take any other adverse action against a woman related to a pregnancy or childbirth or a medical condition related to the same. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pregnant workers may have impairments related to their pregnancies that qualify as disabilities under the ADA and employers must provide reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations would include: redistributing marginal or non-essential functions, modifying workplace policies, modifying workplace schedules, allowance for telework, purchasing or modifying equipment while performing tasks and temporary reassignment of work duties.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1081 MINIMUM WAGE (MACER)

Increases the minimum wage paid to certain employees in Indiana as follows: (1) After August 31, 2019, from \$7.25 an hour to \$8.20 an hour. (2) After



December 31, 2019, from \$8.20 an hour to \$9.15 an hour. (3) After December 31, 2020, from \$9.15 an hour to \$10.10 an hour. (4) After December 31, 2021, from \$10.10 an hour to \$11.05 an hour. (5) After December 31, 2022, from \$11.05 an hour to \$12 an hour. Provides that after December 31, 2023, and each subsequent December 31, the hourly minimum wage increases at the same percentage as any increase in the Consumer Price Index for the preceding calendar year. Increases the minimum wage that an employer is required to pay a tipped employee and to use in computing the tip credit allowed the employer. Makes technical corrections and corresponding changes. Removes outdated language. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** At first glance, increasing the minimum wage appears to be a simple way to fight poverty. However, research shows that increasing the minimum wage puts pressure on employers and results in a net increase in the proportion of families who are poor or near poverty.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1082 CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT (Macer)

Expands the definition of "employer" for purposes of civil rights enforcement, to include any person employing one or more persons within the state. (Current law defines "employer" to include any person employing six or more persons within the state.) Expands the remedies available to a complainant if the Civil Rights Commission finds that a person engaged in an unlawful discriminatory practice. Requires the commission to issue a right to sue letter if requested by the complainant, in lieu of an investigation and hearing. Permits a civil rights action to be tried by a jury. Removes the requirement that both parties must consent before a civil rights claim is heard as a civil cause of action.

**Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The bill allows individuals to file claims of discrimination against employers with fewer than six employees, a change which could increase the number of actions and could be devastating to small employers.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1088 SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR DATA WAREHOUSE EQUIPMENT (Pressell)

Sales tax exemption for data warehouse equipment. Provides a state sales and use tax exemption for the purchase of certain enterprise information technology equipment and the sale of electricity used to operate the enterprise information technology equipment. Provides that, to be eligible for the exemption, a business must invest in the aggregate at least \$10,000,000 in enterprise information technology equipment that will be located at one or more data centers in Indiana. Requires the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) to take applications for the exemption and certify an entity as a business eligible for the exemption. Provides that the IEDC may not certify eligible businesses after June 30, 2029. Provides that a business once certified by the IEDC may use the exemption for purchases of enterprise information technology equipment after June 30, 2029. Sunsets the sales

and use tax exemption for the sale of electricity used to operate the enterprise information technology equipment on June 30, 2029. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Site locators indicate that Indiana fails to even be considered for large data center projects due to the more competitive environment created by so many other states that offer more substantial and comprehensive incentives than Indiana. While data centers are not high-volume employers themselves, they make huge capital investments that entice their customers and affiliated service providers to locate nearby. The very presence of a data center often attracts high technology companies in need of their services and seeking the advantages of proximity to their key service provider – their data center. Indiana should be competing for these developments.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

### HB 1093 BIAS/HATE CRIMES (Steuerwald)



Makes it an aggravating circumstance (for the purposes of imposing a criminal sentence) that a crime was committed with bias and with the intent to harm or intimidate (1) an individual, (2) group of individuals, (3) the property of an individual or (4) the property of a group of individuals; the individual's or the group's real or perceived characteristic, trait, belief, practice, association or other attribute the court chooses to consider. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber acknowledges and appreciates the intent of the author with respect to bringing forth a bias/hate crimes bill that is intended to be comprehensive and will remove Indiana from the short list of states that do not have such. The Chamber prefers that the General Assembly enact legislation that contains a specific list of protected categories of individuals or groups such as those contained in HB 1020 or SB 12.

**Contact: Kevin Brinegar (317) 264-6882**

### HB 1112 VOCATIONAL EDUCATION (Bartels)

Establishes the additive manufacturing pilot grant program to: (1) make grants to school corporations to facilitate eligible student instruction in the use of additive manufacturing equipment; and (2) provide eligible students with an industry recognized certificate or credential in operating additive manufacturing equipment. Provides that a school corporation may apply for a grant from the additive manufacturing pilot fund to purchase additive manufacturing equipment.

Establishes criteria that a school corporation must meet to receive a grant from the fund. Provides that the maximum amount of a grant awarded from the fund is \$150,000.

**Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports efforts to increase student access to and acquisition of relevant, industry-aligned skills in manufacturing and other high-need Indiana job sectors. Though providing state funding to school districts for manufacturing equipment is well-intentioned, providing a tax or related financial incentive for employers to donate equipment for this purpose might be a

more effective/scalable approach to this issue.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

### HB 1119 PEER-TO-PEER CAR RENTALS (Karickhoff)

Specifies that a car facilitation company is a company facilitating the noncommercial use of a privately-owned passenger motor vehicle by a person other than the vehicle's registered owner. Provides that a car facilitation company is treated the same as a car rental company under the trade regulation statutes for the purposes of state and local taxes.

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Equity in the marketplace dictates that companies that facilitate the rental of privately-owned vehicles be required to collect and remit the same state and local taxes as traditional car and truck rental companies with which they compete.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

### HB 1120 COUNTY OPTION PROPERTY TAX REPLACEMENT FEE (Karickhoff)

Permits a county council or a local income tax adopting body to establish an annual property tax replacement fee on any parcel receiving assessed value deductions or property tax credits that reduce the annual property tax liability on the parcel to less than the fee amount set by the county. Provides that the fee must be at least \$100 but not more than \$400. Specifies that the property taxes paid on the parcel are a credit against the fee. Changes the county option amount from \$25 to \$100 for requiring the payment of property taxes and the property tax replacement fee, if any, in the May installment. Eliminates the \$5 minimum property tax statement processing fee if a county adopts the property tax replacement fee.

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** It only makes sense that everybody who receives the benefits of property tax deductions should be obligated to pay the bare minimum fee regardless of the level of deductions they qualify for.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

### HB 1123 TELEPHONE SOLICITATION (Ellington)



Provides that an executive officer of a person that violates the telephone solicitation law commits a separate deceptive act actionable by the Consumer Protection Division of the attorney general's office. Requires the division to amend its rules to allow businesses to be included in the quarterly listing of telephone numbers of persons that request not to be solicited by telephone. Allows the division to use the consumer protection division telephone solicitation fund to: administer the statutes concerning the registration of telephone solicitors, administer the regulation of automatic dialing machines and reimburse county prosecutors for expenses incurred in extraditing violators of these and other state and federal statutes concerning telephone solicitations. Increases the penalty for: failure to register with the division by a seller

that makes certain solicitations from a Level 6 felony to a Level 5 felony, violating regulations regarding use of automatic dialing machines from a Class C misdemeanor to a Level 6 felony and violation of regulations regarding use of false or misleading caller identification information from a Class B misdemeanor to a Level 6 felony. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This bill could have a negative impact on the business community as it would limit business-to-business interactions. It would make the executive of a company liable for employees' acts even if the executive did not knowingly or recklessly allow the acts of the employee. The bill could lead to costly implementation for business-to-business transactions and would prohibit certain acts of businesses.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

**HB 1130 OUT-OF-STATE DRUG PRESCRIPTIONS (Judy)**

Provides that if a patient legally obtains a drug containing marijuana, hash oil, hashish or salvia in a state, territory or possession of the United States other than Indiana through a prescription from a licensed physician acting in the course of the physician's professional medical practice and dispensed by a licensed pharmacist or other licensed dispenser, the patient may possess marijuana, hash oil, hashish or salvia subject to certain requirements and limitations. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber opposes the legalization of marijuana for recreational use and for medicinal use until efficacy and safety have been proven consistent through clinical trials. Marijuana is still a Schedule I controlled substance under federal law. This law would give a pass to those out-of-state individuals traveling in and through Indiana that have a medical marijuana card from their state of residency.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**HB 1134 BAN ON FLAME-RETARDANT MATERIAL (Hamilton)**

This bill defines "flame-retardant chemical" as a chemical or chemical compound used to resist or inhibit the spread of fire. Prohibits the manufacture, assembly, acceptance for sale and selling of certain upholstered furniture, mattresses and mattress pads that contain more than 0.1% of a flame-retardant chemical or more than 0.1% of a mixture that contains a flame-retardant chemical. A person who violates this chapter commits a Class B infraction. However, the offense is a Class A infraction if the person has a prior unrelated judgment for a violation. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The bill would have a detrimental impact on Indiana's furniture manufacturers and companies that sell furniture. It would likely increase legal fees for these companies due to any violation being determined to be a Class A or Class B infraction.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**



**HB 1145 LIVING WAGE (DeLaney)**

Replaces all references to the state minimum wage with "living wage". After June 30, 2019,



increases the living wage paid to certain employees from \$7.25 per hour to \$15 per hour. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** Similar to minimum wage arguments; see HB 1081.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**HB 1147 ELIMINATION OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (DeLaney)**

Transfers all powers, duties, agreements and liabilities of the state board to the Department of Education. Requires the Legislative Services Agency to prepare legislation for introduction in the 2020 regular session of the General Assembly to organize and correct statutes affected by this act. **Position: NEUTRAL Reason:** To ensure greater coordination and alignment between the state agencies charged with overseeing Indiana's education and workforce development systems, the Chamber would support eliminating the State Board of Education only if the duties and responsibilities of that entity were transferred to a reconstituted Education Roundtable.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

**HB 1159 BIAS/HATE CRIMES (Porter)**

Provides that a bias motivated crime is a crime in which the person who commits the crime knowingly or intentionally selects: (1) the individual against whom the crime was committed; or (2) any property damaged or otherwise affected by the crime; in whole or in part because of the actual or perceived race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression or disability of the individual or a group of individuals, whether or not the person's belief or perception was correct. Amends the law that requires law enforcement agencies to collect and report information concerning bias motivated crimes. Makes it an aggravating circumstance that may be considered by a judge when the judge imposes a sentence for a crime if the crime is a bias motivated crime.



**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** See HB 1020.

**Contact: Kevin Brinegar (317) 264-6882**

**HB 1172 VIRTUAL EDUCATION (Behning)**

Provides that the State Board of Education (state board) may adopt rules regarding virtual education programs of school corporations. Requires the following: (1) A school corporation to establish and implement an onboarding process and orientation for prospective students of virtual education programs. (2) A virtual charter school to establish and implement an onboarding process and orientation for students newly enrolled in the virtual charter school. Provides that a student who does not participate in a school corporation's virtual education program before July 1, 2019, must complete the onboarding process and orientation established by the school corporation before the student may participate in the school corporation's virtual education program. Provides that a student who initially enrolls in a virtual charter school after June 30, 2019, must participate in the onboarding process and orientation established by the virtual charter school or the

student must be withdrawn from the virtual charter school. Provides that, if at least 30% of the total number of students enrolled in a school corporation participate in the school corporation's virtual education program, the school corporation shall establish a dedicated virtual education school. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Indiana Chamber has a longstanding position in favor of promoting school choice options for Hoosier families. However, given that students enrolled in virtual schools tend to underperform their peers in traditional bricks-and-mortar and blended-learning schools, it seems prudent to establish reasonable safeguards that ensure students who choose to attend virtual schools adequately understand and are equipped to succeed in these unique learning environments.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1179 PRIOR AUTHORIZATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS (Davisson)



Requires a health plan that denies prior authorization for a prescription drug to provide certain information in the notice of denial. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This is a mandate and the Chamber opposes mandates to health insurance plans. Secondly, this will only impact about 20% of the prior authorizations made; it has no impact on the self-insured market. Thus, this bill will not accomplish what it intends to do.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1180 PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS (Carbaugh)

Requires a pharmacy benefit manager to obtain a license issued by the Department of Insurance. Provides for the Department of Insurance to adopt rules to specify licensure, reporting, business conduct, and other requirements that apply to a pharmacy benefit manager. Prohibits certain contract provisions applying to a contract between a pharmacist or pharmacy and a pharmacy benefit manager. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** Better controlling and managing of prescription drug costs is an important goal for employers and their workforce. Self-insured employers and health plans work directly with pharmacy benefit managers on this. There should be adequate regulation of this industry, but the Indiana Chamber sees HB 1180 as overregulation with no attempt to reduce costs.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1181 ASBESTOS LITIGATION (Lehman)

Requires certain disclosures regarding asbestos trust claims in civil asbestos actions. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill brings transparency to the legal process. It does not stop anyone from bringing suit against a company they believe caused exposure to asbestos. What the bill does do is allow a jury to have all the information to make an informed decision. The individual must disclose what trusts they have made a claim to and what trusts they believe they are entitled to.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1182 WORKER'S COMPENSATION (Lehman)

Provides that, for worker's compensation purposes, an employee who leaves work to serve as a volunteer firefighter or member of a volunteer emergency medical services association (volunteer member) is considered an employee of the firefighting unit while in the performance of duties as a volunteer firefighter or volunteer member. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Employers' worker's comp should not cover an employee if they are serving as a volunteer firefighter during the course of the day, even if the employer chooses to supplement their pay while at a fire. The inherent risks are different for a firefighter than what they would be on the job with the employer. Without this legislation, employers that accommodate employees for volunteer firefighter service will definitely not elect to supplement their pay while carrying out that service.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1194 TAX CREDITS (Lehman)

Establishes the regional development tax credit. Allows a taxpayer to apply to the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) for the credit. Provides that a taxpayer is entitled to a credit against state tax liability if: (1) the taxpayer makes a qualified investment for the redevelopment or rehabilitation of real property that is vacant or underused; and (2) the qualified investment is approved by the IEDC. Specifies the factors that the IEDC shall consider in evaluating applications for a proposed qualified investment. ...

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports legislation that promotes regionalization. This bill would encourage local communities to plan and execute key economic development initiatives on a regional basis and provides a mechanism to fund them.

**Contact: Adam Berry (317) 264-6892**

#### HB 1202 RIGHT TO WORK (Boy)

Repeals the chapter prohibiting an employer from requiring: (1) labor organization membership; (2) payment of dues or fees to a labor organization; or (3) payment to a charity or other third party an amount equivalent to fees required by a labor organization; as a condition of employment. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This bill will repeal the right to work statute. Further, it would remove an individual's right to choose whether or not they wish to join a union.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1203 BIAS/HATE CRIMES (Boy)

Establishes a sentencing procedure that requires a court, when sentencing an individual who has committed a crime that is motivated by a bias against another individual's actual or perceived age, ancestry, color, creed, disability, ethnicity, familial status, gender identity, military service, national origin, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation to impose an additional fixed term of imprisonment not to exceed five years, if the offense is a felony or three years, if the offense is a misdemeanor.



Requires law enforcement agencies to report bias motivated crimes to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** See HB 1020.  
**Contact: Kevin Brinegar (317) 264-6882**

**HB 1204 SCHOOL START TIMES (Boy)**  
Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, prohibits public schools and accredited nonpublic schools from doing the following: (1) Beginning a student instructional day before 8 a.m. (2) Beginning a student instructional day for students in grade 6 through grade 12 before the time established by a governing body (or its equivalent) to begin a student instructional day for students in grade one through grade five. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This is a local decision. Additionally, prohibiting early morning start times for elementary age students is actually contrary to established research regarding youth brain development.  
**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

**HB 1205 TEACHER SALARIES (Boy)**  
Removes a provision that provides that a combination of certain factors may account for not more than 33.33% of the calculation used to determine an increase or increment in teacher salaries. Increases the basic tuition support appropriation. Provides that a school corporation must provide each classroom teacher a salary increase of between 2% and 5% to receive a basic tuition support distribution that includes the additional appropriation. **Position: OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** While the Indiana Chamber supports efforts to better attract/retain teachers, including compensation increases, this particular proposal is overly prescriptive and infringes on local control. Additionally, the Chamber prefers pay-for-performance compensation policies that are linked to demonstrated instructional effectiveness and/or teachers' level of responsibility rather than predetermined percentage increases applied across the board to all teachers.  
**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

**HB 1215 SMALL SCHOOL GRANTS (Manning)**  
Re-establishes a small school grant for school corporations having a current ADM (average daily membership) of less than 2,400. Appropriates from the state general fund an amount sufficient to make the grants for the 2019-2021 biennium. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** While the Chamber supports efforts to provide equitable resources to all schools, including small schools, the current language is problematic for a few reasons: 1) Fiscal impact: Would require an additional estimated expenditure of \$54 million over the biennium which seems impractical given the state's other budgetary priorities, including increased tuition support and teacher compensation; 2) Purpose: Language should specify the intended/allowable use of these funds, i.e. expenditures, should directly support classroom instruction/academic programming rather than general operations; and 3) Sustainability: Allocation of supplemental grants should be preceded by an independent audit to ensure the school's

underlying financial viability and to identify whether all available efficiencies (e.g., consolidating administrative functions) have been realized before additional state dollars are expended.  
**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

**HB 1227 ESTABLISHING A NEW TOWNSHIP (Chyung)**  
Provides that if a municipality's petition for transfer of its territory from its current township to an adjacent township is rejected or not accepted by an adjacent township, the municipality may establish a new township consisting of the territory within the municipality. Requires the municipality to prepare a comprehensive plan and fiscal impact analysis regarding the new township. Requires the Department of Local Government Finance to review and comment on the fiscal impact analysis. Requires the new township to be governed by the municipality's executive (a mayor for a city, the president of the town council for a town) exercising the duties of a township trustee and the municipality's legislative and fiscal body exercising the duties of a township board. Repeals a provision that provides that the transfer of territory of a municipality to an adjacent township may not take effect in the year preceding a decennial census. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART/OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports the idea that a municipality is fully capable of absorbing a townships' obligations, but this bill runs counter to the objective of streamlining township government by potentially creating new townships wholly within the jurisdictional boundaries of a municipality. The Chamber believes that fewer levels of government, not more, would better serve the taxpayers.  
**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

**HB 1230 REPEAL OF STATUTES PRE-EMPTING LOCAL ACTION (Chyung)**  
Repeals statutes that prohibit a unit of local government from doing the following: (1) Mandating employee benefits, scheduling or leave policy that exceed federal or state requirements. (2) Regulating firearms, ammunition and firearm accessories. (3) Requiring a landlord to participate in a housing program. (4) Regulating the manufacture or use of bags, bottles and other single use containers. (5) Regulating the leasing or sale of real property. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber recognizes the right of the General Assembly to pass laws that govern the entire state in order to establish uniformity and consistency in the laws that affect business operations and transactions. Home rule has legitimate boundaries that are delineated by the acts of the General Assembly.  
**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

**HB 1233 LEGISLATION SESSIONS (Chyung)**  
Moves legislation sessions to the summer months. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber finds the current structure of the General Assembly sessions works fine and that moving session to the summer months would be very disruptive.  
**Contact: Kevin Brinegar (317) 264-6882**

**HB 1240 PROPERTY TAX RELIEF (Pryor)**

Permits counties, cities and towns (including Marion County) to establish a neighborhood enhancement property tax relief program to provide an assessed value deduction for longtime owner-occupants of homesteads having an assessed value of less than \$125,000 in designated areas. Specifies various conditions for the program. Allows a local unit to include additional requirements for the program. Provides a penalty for wrongly receiving the deduction that is the same as the penalty for wrongly receiving the homestead standard deduction.

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber recognizes the need to support longtime residents who are effectively forced to relocate due to increased property values and taxes.

Redevelopment and increased values are inevitable, but this bill offers modest, reasonable protections to those who have long resided in the neighborhood and wish to stay in their homestead.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

**HB 1244 WORKFORCE DIPLOMA REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM (Sullivan)**

Establishes the: (1) workforce diploma reimbursement program; and (2) workforce diploma reimbursement program fund.

Provides that the Governor’s Workforce Cabinet, in coordination with the Department of Workforce Development, shall administer the program. Provides that the purpose of the fund is to provide payments to eligible program providers that assist adults who are more than 22 years of age in: (1) developing employability and career technical skills; and (2) obtaining high school diplomas. Provides that: (1) the cabinet shall approve eligible program providers to participate in the program; and (2) the department shall publish a list of approved eligible program providers on the department’s internet web site. Requires the cabinet to include in the report the cabinet submits concerning workforce related programs the cabinet’s review, analysis and evaluation of the program, including the cabinet’s and department’s activities related to the development of the program. Requires the department to transfer annually to the fund an amount equal to \$2,500,000 of the money appropriated by the General Assembly for adult education.

**Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Indiana Chamber supports efforts to ensure the effectiveness of adult education program providers in promoting career readiness in alignment with employer/industry expectations. However, it’s unclear 1) whether outcomes-based metrics will be utilized in evaluating the effectiveness of these program, 2) how the state will ensure public transparency regarding its provider evaluations, and 3) what the requirements of the “workforce diploma” are in relation to the state’s high school diploma requirements.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

**HB 1254 EDUCATION MATTERS (Lucas)**

Provides that the following statutes are repealed and rules are voided: (1) Any statute or rule established to meet the requirements of federal law for the purpose of obtaining federal funds for kindergarten through



grade 12 education. (2) Any statute or rule establishing requirements regarding teacher salary, evaluations, curriculum or any other requirement regarding the employment of teachers other than teacher licensing requirements. Establishes the education options account program. Requires the treasurer of state to administer the program. Establishes: (1) the education options account fund; and (2) requirements and conditions for the program. Requires the treasurer of state to: (1) annually request a parent of an eligible student who is participating in the program to complete a written survey; and (2) annually provide a summary of the survey to the Governor and the Legislative Council. Continuously appropriates money from the education options account fund and the accounts established within the fund for the purposes of the program.

**Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This proposal calls for sweeping repeals of existing state statute that would negatively impact Indiana’s ability to improve student preparation and workforce development, including but not limited to prohibiting the state to accept federal K-12 funding and eliminating teacher effectiveness requirements. At the same time, the bill would establish a new “education options fund” that appears redundant with the state’s existing College 529 savings plan but also has an onerous annual survey requirement for families participating in the proposed (unnecessary) program.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

**HB 1260 LOCAL REFERENDA FOR WIND POWER DEVICES (Saunders)**



The bill provides that after June 30, 2019, a unit of local government may not authorize or establish requirements for, the installation or siting of wind power devices in the unit unless the voters of the unit have approved the installation or siting of wind power devices in the unit through a local public question. The bill also provides that a regulation that is adopted or amended by a unit after June 30, 2019, and authorizes or establishes requirements for, the installation or siting of wind power devices in the unit does not take effect unless this condition is met. It also sets forth procedures for conducting a local public question concerning the installation or siting of wind power devices in a unit. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This bill would add considerable cost and delay to the process for the construction of wind turbine facilities. It would have a chilling effect on any such business associated with the construction of wind turbine facilities. It also could affect property and contract rights. As a result, this would likely drive up the cost of electricity. Simply put, it has the potential to prevent the development of any wind turbine facilities in some counties.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

**HB 1266 SEDIMENT AND EROSION CONTROL IN CONSTRUCTION (Miller)**

Provides that the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), a soil and water conservation district or a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) community to

which a construction plan is submitted must make a preliminary determination whether the construction plan is substantially complete not more than 48 hours after the submission of the construction plan. Prohibits an MS4 community from requiring erosion and sediment control measures that are more stringent than the erosion and sediment control measures required by the administrative rule of the Environmental Rules Board concerning storm water runoff associated with construction activity. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill will provide consistent regulation statewide for construction projects. It should also provide for a more timely approval or denial of construction plans. It will require individuals who review the plans to have subject matter expertise.  
**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

**HB 1267 TAX CREDIT FOR EMPLOYING GUARD AND RESERVE MEMBERS (Gutwein)**  
Provides a tax credit against state tax liability each taxable year to an employer that employs a member of the National Guard or a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States who is called to active duty. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Proposal provides an additional tax credit for Indiana businesses with an incentive to employ active and reserve military personnel.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**HB 1274 TEACHER LICENSURE (Wesco)**  
Requires the Department of Education to grant an initial practitioner license to an individual who: (1) holds at least a bachelor's degree or the equivalent from a postsecondary educational institution; (2) submits fingerprints and any required fees for a national criminal history background check and has not been convicted of certain crimes; and (3) successfully completes the American Board alternative teacher certification program. Provides that an individual who receives an initial practitioner license by meeting these conditions: (1) is authorized to teach the subject matter and grade levels for which the individual has successfully completed the American Board alternative teacher certification program; and (2) is eligible to receive a practitioner license after teaching for at least three years under the initial practitioner license. Provides that an individual who holds an initial practitioner license under these conditions is a "new teacher" for purposes of the Indiana new educator induction pilot program. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports new and non-traditional approaches that bring more qualified candidates into the teaching profession, particularly in addressing teacher shortages in high need content areas.  
**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

**HB 1278 VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS (Wolkins)**  
Corrects or resolves various issues related to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). Makes

some technical corrections to Indiana Code and Code of Federal Regulations citations. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** IDEM annually identifies issues that require correction in its "clean-up" bill. This is intended to fix those issues.  
**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

**HB 1279 CONSERVANCY DISTRICT PETITION (Wolkins)**  
The bill increases the number of petition signatures required to initiate proceedings with the circuit court to establish a conservancy district. Circuit courts refer petitions to the Natural Resources Commission to conduct public hearings, gather input and prepare reports to the court. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Conservancy districts are formed to address a number of water issues including flood prevention and control, drainage, irrigation, water supply and treatment, sewage control and erosion. This bill should help slow the creation of very small water utilities, which have been a problem for ratepayers and sustainability of resources. The Chamber's water study identified economies of scale as one method of preventing the costs of water resources from increasing.  
**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

**HB 1281 PAY DATA REPORTING (Errington)**  
Requires certain private employers to file a pay data report with the Department of Labor (DOL). Creates the employment enforcement and compliance fund, to be used by the department to identify and combat pay discrimination. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The bill requires private employers already subject to reporting under the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972 to report certain data to the Indiana DOL. This bill is an unnecessary mandate to employers.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**HB 1282 PAY EQUITY (Errington)**  
Provides that an employer may not discriminate between employees on the basis of sex by paying to employees a rate less than the rate at which the employer pays wages to employees of the opposite sex for substantially similar work on jobs under similar working conditions, unless the payment is made pursuant to: (1) a seniority system that is not affected by pregnancy or by parental, family or medical leave; (2) a merit system; (3) a system which measures earnings by quantity or quality of production, as long as that system is not being used as a pretext for discrimination; or (4) a bona fide occupational qualification that is not discriminatory, but that is job related and consistent with a business necessity. Defines "business necessity". Prohibits, with certain exceptions, an employer from using an applicant's salary history in the hiring process. Prohibits an employer from discriminating or retaliating against an employee for discussing or disclosing wages. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This is unnecessary legislation. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 makes it illegal to have a disparity of wages based on sex: "No employer shall discriminate between employees on the basis of sex by paying

wages to employees at a rate less than the rate paid to employees of the opposite sex.”

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1283 MARIJUANA (Lucas)

Decriminalizes the possession of: (1) 30 grams or less of marijuana; or (2) five grams or less of hash oil or hashish; by making the violation a Class D infraction. Provides that a person who knowingly or intentionally possesses an instrument, a device or another object that the person intends to use for introducing marijuana into the person’s body, commits a Class D infraction. Establishes a per se intoxication level of 10 nanograms of THC per milliliter of whole blood for purposes of operating while intoxicated laws and requires that the analysis of controlled substances in a person’s blood measure only the controlled substance and not the metabolites of the controlled substance. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber opposes the legalization of recreational marijuana. The Chamber believes decriminalization sends the wrong message about the use of marijuana. Other states that have enacted a per se limit for intoxication differ in what that amount should be to determine impairment.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1288 CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT (Hamilton)

Provides a child and dependent care refundable tax credit against an individual’s Indiana adjusted gross income tax for employment related child and dependent care expenses based on the taxpayer’s Indiana adjusted gross income and a percentage of the federal child and dependent care tax credit the taxpayer claimed for the taxable year for federal income tax purposes.

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** In these times of workforce shortages, this bill would help attract and retain employees who want to work but must factor in the cost of child care.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1307 HEALTH CARE COST SHARING (Bacon)

Requires a state employee health plan, an accident and sickness insurer and a health maintenance organization to count cost sharing payments made on behalf of a covered individual toward the covered individual’s cost sharing amount. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber opposes all mandates to small group health plans (about 20% of the market) because they drive up health plan costs.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1310 STUDY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY TAXES (Saunders)

Urges the Legislative Council to assign to the appropriate study committee the task of studying various property tax issues. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Property tax burdens

are not well understood. Exemptions shift the tax burden to other taxpayers and should be closely examined and balanced against the public benefit received.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### HB 1316 PERSONAL LEAVE (Dvorak)

Provides that certain employees of certain employers are entitled to accrue one hour of personal leave for every 30 hours worked but may not accrue more than 60 hours of personal leave in a 12-month period, unless the employer allows for a higher accrual. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This is a mandate on small businesses and would drive up business costs. The free market should determine what personal leave benefits the employer elects to provide.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1320 BIAS/HATE CRIMES (Moed)

Makes it an aggravating circumstance (for purposes of imposing a criminal sentence) that the crime was committed with the intent to harm or intimidate an individual because of certain perceived or actual characteristics of the individual. Requires law enforcement agencies to report bias motivated crimes to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** See HB 1020.

**Contact: Kevin Brinegar (317) 264-6882**

#### HB 1337 RELIGIOUS MOTIVATED CRIMES (Speedy)

Provides that a person commits the offense of a religious motivated crime if the person knowingly or intentionally: (1) causes bodily injury to another person; or (2) damages the property of another person; because of the other person’s actual or perceived religion or creed. Provides that the state may seek either a death sentence or a sentence of life imprisonment without parole if the murder was a result of a religious motivated crime. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** This bill is similar to the other bias/hate crime bills that have been filed, except that it only provides sentence enhancements for crimes where there is evidence of a religious-motivated bias. While this is a move in the right direction, in the Chamber’s view this bill does not go nearly far enough to send the message that Indiana does not tolerate bias-motivated crimes.

**Contact: Kevin Brinegar (317) 264-6882**

#### HB 1344 NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT (Clere)

Specifies requirements for participation by the state in a multistate nurse licensure compact, including provisions concerning: (1) nurse qualifications, practice and participation; (2) a compact commission; (3) interstate commission and state board of nursing authority and rulemaking; (4) a coordinated licensure information system; (5) oversight and enforcement; and (6) termination or withdrawal from the compact. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Hospital facilities are facing staffing barriers due to the shortage of registered nurses. The Chamber believes the compact will help ease the financial burden of

dual licensure for those organizations and their practitioners.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1352 SALES TAX ADMINISTRATION (Porter)

Provides that a marketplace facilitator is required to collect and remit state sales and use taxes as a retail merchant when it facilitates a retail sale for a marketplace seller on the marketplace facilitator's marketplace. Provides that a marketplace seller is not required to collect and remit the state sales tax on the retail sale under certain circumstances.

Provides that the requirement shall not be applied retroactively. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports requiring the online facilitators to collect and remit the sales tax so long as the provisions are equitable to the facilitators who are effectively performing the obligations of the seller and the state to collect the tax. Requiring the collection at the point of the transaction should prove beneficial to all affected parties.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### HB 1355 SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (Shackleford)

Requires the Indiana Housing and Community Development authority to develop and implement a program to award grants of not more than \$25,000 to eligible entities to support new small business concerns. Defines "eligible entity" as an organization: (1) that is located in the United States; (2) the primary purpose of which is to support new small business concerns; and (3) that is often classified as an accelerator. Defines "small business concern" to mean a small business that has been in operation for not more than five years. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill is designed to assist and promote the development of newly formed small businesses with some emphasis on underserved areas and businesses that are operated by socially and economically disadvantaged entrepreneurs.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### HB 1361 TAX INCENTIVES FOR PUBLIC SAFETY VOLUNTEERS (Bartels)

Provides that an individual who is a volunteer firefighter or a police reserve officer and meets certain requirements is entitled to a credit of \$1,000 against the individual's adjusted gross income tax liability each taxable year. Provides that a clothing or uniform allowance received by a volunteer firefighter or police reserve officer is exempt from the adjusted gross income tax imposed on the income of the individual. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Volunteer firefighter departments are facing significant challenges in attracting a sufficient number of firefighters to assure the performance of their critical service to their community. This bill is just a small step to assist them in fulfilling that vital service.

**Contact: Adam Berry (317) 264-6892**

#### HB 1362 PEER-TO-PEER VEHICLE SHARING (Eberhart)

Defines peer-to-peer vehicle sharing. Provides requirements for a peer to peer vehicle sharing program. Provides that a shared vehicle may not be shared on a peer-to-peer vehicle program if any safety recalls have not been repaired. Provides insurance requirements for a shared vehicle if the vehicle will be shared on a peer-to-peer vehicle sharing program. Provides that a political subdivision may not enact or enforce an ordinance, resolution, policy or rule to regulate peer-to-peer vehicle sharing. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber believes it is appropriate to ensure that shared personal vehicles are safe and road worthy. The Chamber further supports prohibiting local units from adopting separate and disparate ordinances to regulate this new form of commerce. However, this bill falls short in that it does not require the facilitator of the shared vehicles to collect and remit all applicable state and local vehicle rental taxes as traditional car and truck rental firms must do.

**Contact: Adam Berry (317) 264-6892**

#### HB 1363 WAGERING ON SPORTS (Morrison)

Authorizes sports wagering at riverboats, racinos and satellite facilities. Provides for the administration, conduct and taxation of sports wagering. Imposes initial and annual fees on a licensed owner, operating agent or permit holder conducting sports wagering. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** In light of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision authorizing sports wagering across the country, it makes sense for the General Assembly to enact legislation here in Indiana in order to prevent the tax revenue collected on said wagering to go out of state. It is further appropriate that sports wagering be authorized at existing, regulated gaming facilities.

**Contact: Adam Berry (317) 264-6892**

#### HB 1366 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM (Moed)

Provides that if Indiana legalizes sports wagering, a portion of state proceeds from the regulation of sports wagering shall be appropriated to increase annual funding for early education grants in Marion County, beginning in the state fiscal year following the year in which sports wagering is legalized. Provides that the amount of the increase is equal to the amount required to award twice the number of grants in Marion County as are awarded in Marion County in the state fiscal year in which sports wagering is legalized. **Position: OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** This proposal is consistent with the Chamber's support of sports wagering as an additional source of state revenue. However, it does seem problematic that a portion of these funds would be directed to a single Indiana county and would limit the state's flexibility in directing these revenues as budget priorities/circumstances change over time.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

### HB 1371 BIAS/HATE CRIMES (Campbell)

Establishes a sentencing procedure that requires a court, when sentencing an individual who has committed a crime that is motivated by a bias against another individual's perceived or actual age, color, creed, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation or veteran status, to impose an additional fixed term of imprisonment not to exceed five years, if the offense is a felony or three years, if the offense is a misdemeanor. Requires law enforcement agencies to report bias motivated crimes to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** See HB 1020.

**Contact: Kevin Brinegar (317) 264-6882**



### HB 1372 INSPECTIONS OF RENTAL PROPERTIES (Campbell)

Provides that a political subdivision shall establish and enforce a program for inspecting and registering rental units. Allows a tenant to terminate a rental agreement in certain circumstances with written notice and requires the landlord to pay inspection and registration fees which may be collected from the tenant. Requires every rental unit constructed after June 30, 2019, and all rental units by June 30, 2025 to be inspected and registered. Also requires the owner to complete a registration and request an inspection before a tenant takes possession of the property.

**Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This bill would impose a considerable amount of additional regulation and costs on property owners that lease property to others. The provisions for early termination would likely result in increased litigation.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

### HB 1377 MEDICAL CANNABIS (Errington)

Defines "qualifying patient" and permits a qualifying patient to use medical cannabis under certain circumstances. Requires the state Department of Health to adopt rules before July 1, 2020: (1) concerning the use, distribution, cultivation, production and testing of medical cannabis; and (2) developing and implementing a medical cannabis registry. Provides limited reciprocity for holders of nonresident medical cannabis cards. Provides immunity from civil and criminal liability for physicians who recommend the medical use of cannabis. Provides a defense to: (1) arrest; and (2) criminal prosecution; for marijuana possession and use in certain circumstances. Makes conforming amendments. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber opposes the legalization of marijuana for recreational use and also opposes the legalization of marijuana for medicinal purposes until clinical trials have proven its efficacy and safety. The Chamber supports the use of isolated components of marijuana, cannabinoids or similar extracts for solely medicinal purposes if approved by the Federal Drug Administration for specific illnesses and diseases. Marijuana is a Schedule I controlled substance and is illegal at the federal level. Any state law that legalizes it in any form would be in conflict with federal law. Data shows that once medicinal marijuana is introduced,



illegal access to and use of marijuana increases. Marijuana use is associated with an increase in industrial accidents, disciplinary problems and absenteeism. Any association of marijuana with workplace issues raises concerns for employers.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

### HB 1378 REGULATION OF CONFINED FEEDING OPERATIONS (Errington)

Amends the law on confined feeding operations (CFOs), which include any confined feeding of at least 300 cattle, 600 swine or sheep, 30,000 fowl or 500 horses). Provides that a person who owns a CFO, owns the livestock in a CFO, applies for a permit, permit renewal or permit modification for a CFO or is otherwise in direct or responsible charge of a CFO is a "responsible party" with respect to the CFO. Provides that a person may not start construction or operation of a CFO without obtaining a permit from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and may not modify a CFO without obtaining a permit modification from IDEM. Requires the Environmental Rules Board to adopt rules establishing new requirements for new CFOs and for existing or expanding CFOs, including the requirement to maintain at least one mile in distance between a CFO's structures and the boundary of any property on which an existing residence is located and the requirement to meet an odor standard.

**Position: OPPOSE Reason:** There are adequate rules and regulations in place to control Indiana's CFO operations. New regulations would likely increase costs for CFO operations.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

### HB 1384 MEDICAL MARIJUANA (Lucas)

Permits the use of medical marijuana by persons with serious medical conditions as determined by their physician. Establishes a medical marijuana program to permit the cultivation, processing, testing, transportation and dispensing of medical marijuana by holders of a valid permit. Requires the state Department of Health to implement and enforce the medical marijuana program. Requires that permit holders undertake steps to prevent diversion of medical marijuana to unauthorized persons. Requires that medical marijuana and medical marijuana products be properly labeled, placed in child resistant packaging and tested by an independent testing laboratory before being made available for purchase. Prohibits packaging medical marijuana in a manner that is appealing to children. Authorizes research on medical marijuana in accordance with rules set forth by the state department. Prohibits discrimination against medical marijuana users. Prohibits harassment of medical marijuana users by law enforcement officers, as well as prohibits cooperation with federal law enforcement officials seeking to enforce federal laws that criminalize the use of marijuana authorized in Indiana. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** See HB 1377.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**



### HB 1387 MEDICAL MARIJUANA (Boy)

Permits the cultivation, dispensing and use of medical marijuana by persons with serious medical conditions. Requires the state Department of Health to implement and enforce the medical marijuana program. Prohibits discrimination against medical marijuana users. Prohibits harassment of medical marijuana users by law enforcement officers and prohibits cooperation with federal law enforcement officials seeking to enforce federal laws that criminalize the use of marijuana authorized in Indiana. Provides for the disposal of unused medical marijuana.



**Position: OPPOSE Reason:** See HB 1377.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

### HB 1389 ANNEXATION WAIVERS AND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS (Ellington)

Provides the following with regard to a waiver of remonstrance of annexation: (1) A waiver executed before, on or after July 1, 2019 expires 10 years after the waiver is executed. (2) A waiver executed before, on or after June 30, 2019, is void if the waiver is recorded more than 90 business days after the date the waiver was executed. Provides that an area located within certain fire protection districts (including any area added to the fire protection district after the district is established) remains within the fire protection district after the annexation. (Current law provides that the annexed area ceases to be a part of the fire protection district when the municipality begins to provide fire protection services to the area.) **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports both the requirement that an annexation remonstrance waiver must be recorded in order for it to be effective and the provision that the waiver expires after 10 years. Waivers restrict the voice of taxpayers and their use and application should be constrained.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

### HB 1396 TEACHER SALARIES (Cook)

Establishes the teacher supplemental compensation fund. Increases the cigarette tax by \$1 to \$1.995 per pack of regular size cigarettes (and a corresponding increase for larger cigarettes) with the additional revenue deposited in the fund. Provides that the budget agency may approve to deposit into the fund: (1) amounts reverted to the state general fund in a state fiscal year from funds appropriated; or (2) money in the state general fund attributable to the collection of sales tax from retailers without a physical presence in Indiana. Provides that, for each school year beginning after June 30, 2019, and before July 1, 2022, each teacher who provides classroom instruction is entitled to a supplemental payment in excess of the salary specified in the school corporation's compensation plan in the amount of \$2,000. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports efforts to improve both the health and education level of all Hoosiers. However, data has shown that increasing the cigarette tax by only \$1 per pack is not sufficient to have the desired effect on curbing smoking; it needs to be \$2 per pack. We believe funds collected from a cigarette tax

increase should first go to cover cessation programs and Medicaid costs, but beyond that any additional money should be directed to the area or areas where the General Assembly deems the greatest need, such as for teacher salaries.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

### HB 1399 ADDITIONAL SERVICE CREDIT FOR TEACHER MENTORING (Cook)

Provides that certain public school teachers who are members of the Indiana state teachers' retirement fund are granted additional service credit for serving as a mentor to other teachers under a mentoring program adopted by the school corporation that employs the mentor. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports efforts to better support, develop and retain Indiana teachers through a variety of approaches, including robust educator mentoring programs.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

### HB 1400 EDUCATION MANDATES (Cook)

Provides that various provisions in the Indiana Code that relate to schools expire on July 1, 2020. Urges the Legislative Council to assign to the interim study committee on education during the 2019 interim the study of: (1) how to eliminate, reduce or streamline the amount of education mandates placed on schools; and (2) the provisions that expire July 1, 2020 or otherwise no longer apply to schools after June 30, 2020. Provides that certain administrative rules that pertain to education expire July 1, 2020. Requires the state Department of Health, before January 1, 2021, to amend a rule pertaining to indoor air quality to eliminate its application to schools. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports efforts to reduce government bureaucracy, eliminate antiquated/unnecessary state requirements and streamline expectations to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of Indiana's K-12 schools.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

### HB 1404 SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY (Cook)

Provides that a high school may count a: (1) work-based learning course; or (2) career and technical educational course that is an approved course under the rules established by the State Board of Education; as satisfying an Indiana diploma with a Core 40 with academic honors designation or another designation requirement. Provides that, before July 1, 2020, the State Board of Education shall establish new standards of measuring school performance. Makes conforming amendments. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports to increase/incentivize student engagement in work-based learning experiences and career-technical education coursework, as well as to align school accountability measures with the state's graduation pathways. However, this proposal could be strengthened, particularly at the secondary level, by simplifying/streamlining the number of metrics and to place a greater emphasis on outcomes-based metrics that ensure students are prepared to meet the

expectations of postsecondary education and the workforce.  
**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1405 TAXATION OF DATA CENTERS (Soliday)

Provides that a county or municipal fiscal body may designate an area in which a property tax exemption will be provided for certain enterprise information technology equipment.

Specifies that the resolution making the designation must be adopted before January 1, 2021. (The window for making the designation for the exemption in current law closed December 31, 2016.) Provides a state sales and use tax exemption (exemption) for the purchase of certain data center equipment that is located in a data center that results in a minimum qualified investment within five years, ranging from at least \$50 million to more than \$100 million depending on the population of the county in which the data center is located.

Requires the Indiana Economic Development Corporation to take requests to certify qualified data centers eligible for the exemption. Expires the exemption June 30, 2026. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** See HB 1088.

**Contacts: Adam Berry (317) 264-6892;**  
**Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### HB 1406 WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ASSISTANCE FUND AND PROGRAM (Soliday)



This bill provides that money from certain sources in the Water Infrastructure Assistance fund is continuously appropriated for the purposes of the law concerning the water infrastructure assistance program. Annually appropriates \$20 million from the state general fund to the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) to create a leveraged loan program and provide financial assistance that may include grants, loans and other financial assistance from the fund. Specifies that the annual appropriations begin in the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020. Authorizes the IFA to establish the interest rate or parameters for establishing the fund and program. Provides that a participant, to receive a loan, grant or other financial assistance from the fund must have an asset management program and demonstrate to the IFA that it has a plan to participate with one or more other participants in cooperative activities. Provides that a participant, after receiving a loan or grant from the fund, must maintain its asset management program as long as the loan remains unpaid or during the useful life of the asset financed with the loan or grant.

Requires a participant, if appropriate, to conduct or participate in efforts to determine and eliminate the causes of non-revenue water (leaks) in its water distribution system. ...

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This is consistent with one of the drivers of the Chamber's *Indiana Vision 2025* plan and our long-term position on water resources. It will establish some funding for the water infrastructure assistance fund created through SB 416 in the 2017 legislative session. It also promotes sustainability of water resources and attempts to

keep costs as low as possible.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### HB 1408 MANDATORY KINDERGARTEN (Pfaff)

Provides that, beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, a student shall enroll in a kindergarten program not later than the fall term of the school year if the student is five years of age on August 1 of that school year. Makes conforming amendments.

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Given the increased importance of early childhood education, the Chamber supports efforts to ensure Indiana students start school earlier than the age of seven (7), which is the current state statute.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1423 INDIANA EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE (Porter)

Establishes the Indiana Education Roundtable to make recommendations relating to education to the: (1) Governor; (2) General Assembly; (3) State Board of Education; and (4) state superintendent of public instruction. Provides that the roundtable shall create an advisory committee on early childhood education. Provides that the Governor and the state superintendent shall jointly serve as co-chairpersons of the roundtable. Provides that the academic standards committee shall submit recommendations on academic standards for a subject area to the roundtable for review by the roundtable.

Provides that the roundtable may make recommendations to the state board with regards to the awarding and distribution of student educational achievement grants. Provides that the roundtable shall make recommendations to the state board concerning the incorporation of a statistical adjustment for student mobility rates into the school improvement performance results. Provides that the Department of Education shall provide a copy of a report relating to school arrests to the roundtable. Makes conforming amendments.

**Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports the re-establishment of the Education Roundtable as that group was effective in advancing key K-12 education reforms, including the establishment of well-regarded academic standards, aligned assessments and school accountability system. However, the value/impact of a resurrected version of the Roundtable would be greatly increased by expanding the group's charge to include the postsecondary and workforce sectors of the state's talent pipeline as well as K-12. Additionally, the bill would benefit from a broader policy charge rather than narrowly-focused issues (student mobility, education grants, etc.) in the current proposed language.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1425 SCHOOL EQUITY GRANTS (Porter)

Establishes the equity education grants (grant). Provides that a school corporation is eligible to receive a \$2,000 grant per school year for each student who is in the lowest performing ethnic or racial subgroup based on the ILEARN program

assessment results for the previous school year and is either: (1) eligible for free or reduced price lunch; or (2) a foster child. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** While the Chamber supports efforts to address student achievement gaps, this bill is fiscally impractical given the state's competing budget priorities and does not include language specifying how these funds would be focused/spent to address these academic performance challenges. Per the fiscal impact statement, "This bill would increase state tuition support expenditures by an indeterminate amount. The estimated increase in FY 2018 would have been \$175.5M."

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1427 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE (Leonard)

Excludes political subdivisions that do not have the power to impose property taxes from the requirement to upload a digital copy of certain contracts on the Indiana transparency Internet web site. Provides that if a political subdivision publishes or submits to the Department of Local Government Finance's (DLGF) computer gateway a notice that contains an error or omission that inaccurately reflects the tax rate, tax levy or budget actually proposed or fixed by the political subdivision by an amount that is less than 0.1%, the notice is a valid notice and the DLGF shall correct the error or omission. Specifies the deadlines for county auditors to submit property tax settlement and distribution information to the DLGF. ... **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** In particular, the Chamber supports the provision that requires counties to upload their software vendor contracts to the transparency web portal. The Chamber also generally supports the efforts of the DLGF to identify statutory changes that would allow them to function more effectively as an administrative body. This bill includes a variety of such measures.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### HB 1431 CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (Goodrich)



Provides that a school corporation that is a member of a joint program of career and technical education may add a new career and technical education course to its curriculum without approval from the management board of the technical joint program or the governing body overseeing the joint program if the course is provided by either Ivy Tech Community College or Vincennes University. Voids an administrative rule that requires a school corporation to ensure that a teacher of a secondary school vocational program is licensed by the Department of Education. Provides that, after June 30, 2019, a school corporation, school or a secondary school vocational program may employ an instructor who does not have a license if the instructor meets certain occupational and training requirements. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports efforts to increase state flexibility and local capacity to offer relevant career technical education programming that is aligned with the needs of

industry and Indiana employers.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1438 WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE (Soliday)



Establishes the water infrastructure task force to examine an inventory and assessment of the water resources of the state and study other subjects related to water and wastewater infrastructure. Requires the Water Infrastructure Task Force to issue a report setting forth its findings and recommendations not later than December 1, 2019. Requires a water utility to submit a water loss audit report to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) every year, beginning with the water loss audit report due before July 1, 2021. Requires the water loss audit report to be submitted in 2021 and the water loss audit reports to be submitted in each subsequent odd-numbered year to be accompanied by an independent, level one validation of the water loss audit report. Requires the IURC to adopt rules concerning water loss audits. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill adds to and continues the work of the Water Infrastructure Task Force created by HB 1267 in 2018. It is consistent with one of the drivers of the Chamber's *Indiana Vision 2025* plan. The aim is to develop a long-term plan for addressing drinking water and wastewater needs in Indiana. An integral part of a water resources plan is the ability of the state's water utilities to create and execute long-range plans.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### HB 1441 EMERGENCY CARE REIMBURSEMENT (Hamilton)

Requires a state employee health plan and an accident and sickness insurer to cover and reimburse expenses for care obtained by a covered individual in an emergency. Defines "emergency" to include a condition manifesting symptoms with consequences reasonably expected by a prudent layperson to occur without care. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber opposes all mandates to small group health plans (about 20% of the market) that drive up health plan costs. Also, it's uncertain how this would be implemented.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1444 TAXATION OF E-LIQUIDS (Brown)

Imposes a tax on e-liquids that contain nicotine at a rate of \$0.08 per milliliter of consumable product. Deposits the revenue from the tax in the state general fund. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** E-cigarettes, and all such e-liquid products, have become prevalent in use and should be taxed on par with traditional cigarettes.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### HB 1450 GRANT PROGRAM FOR HIRING EX-OFFENDERS (Mayfield)

Establishes a grant program to provide grants each taxable year to an employer that hires an individual who has been convicted

of a felony. Specifies that the amount of the grant is \$3,000 for each qualified individual the employer hires during the taxable year. Provides that the maximum amount of grants allowed per state fiscal year may not exceed \$2,500,000. Requires a report on the grant program before August 1, 2022. Provides immunity to employers for hiring ex-offenders. Provides that certain conditions of sentencing and probation may not be construed to prevent a person from employing two or more ex-offenders at the same location. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports efforts to support Indiana employers in accessing new pools of workforce talent, including ex-offenders who have paid their debt to society and are equipped to meet the needs of industry and contribute to the state's economic vitality.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### HB 1459 COVERAGE OF CLEFT LIP AND CLEFT PALATE MANAGEMENT (Young)

Specifies that currently required coverage for newly born children related to management of cleft lip and cleft palate includes occupational therapy and speech therapy. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This bill is a mandate on health insurance coverage, which we oppose, plus only 20% of the market would be affected by this legislation.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1460 MARIJUANA (Young)

Permits a person at least 21 years of age to lawfully possess up to one ounce of marijuana. Makes possession of marijuana in the passenger compartment of a motor vehicle a Class C infraction and makes ingesting marijuana while operating a motor vehicle a Class B misdemeanor. Establishes a per se intoxication level of 10 nanograms of THC per milliliter of whole blood for purposes of operating while intoxicated laws and requires that the analysis of controlled substances in a person's blood measure only the controlled substance and not metabolites of the controlled substance. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** See HB 1283.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**



#### HB 1467 INCENTIVES FOR VETERANS TO RELOCATE TO INDIANA (VanNatter)

Establishes the regional veterans hiring initiative fund. Provides that the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) shall administer the fund. Allows the IEDC to enter into a regional veterans hiring initiative agreement with: (1) counties, cities, towns and regional development authorities; and (2) local employers; in a region to provide marketing and recruiting services to attract eligible veterans for employment in the region and provide financial support to eligible veterans who relocate to the region to accept employment. ... Provides a tax credit against state income tax liability of an employer if the following apply: (1) The employer is a party to a regional veterans hiring initiative agreement. (2) The employer employs an eligible veteran during the taxable year. (3) The eligible veteran has maintained continuous full-time employment with the taxpayer for at least 12

months following the veteran's initial hiring date. (4) The IEDC certifies the credit. Provides that the amount of the credit is equal to: (1) \$1,000; multiplied by (2) each eligible veteran for whom the employer is allowed a credit for the taxable year. Provides, however, that an employer not claim a credit for an eligible veteran for whom the employer is allowed a credit in more than one taxable year. Allows an employer to carry forward any unused credit amount. Makes an appropriation. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Indiana, like the rest of the country, has a shortage of well-trained, skilled workers. Indiana would benefit from the success of a program designed to attract veterans to our state and workforce.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### HB 1470 UTILITY TRANSMISSION IMPROVEMENTS AND COSTS (Soliday)

Amends the statute concerning transmission, distribution and storage system improvements charges (TDSIC) for electric and gas utilities. For purposes of the statute, "eligible transmission, distribution, and storage system improvements" include: (1) projects that do not include specific locations or exact numbers; and (2) advanced technology investments. Provides that a public utility's required TDSIC plan under the statute must cover a period of at least five years and not more than nine years. The bill requires a utility to update its TDSIC plan at least annually. Provides that an update to a TDSIC plan may include new projects or improvements. It specifies that a targeted economic development project may include a project related to the provision of electric service. ... The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission must approve the TDSIC plan before it can be implemented. It requires a public utility to update its TDSIC plan at least annually with the IURC. Provides that a utility may terminate a TDSIC plan upon 30 days' notice to the IURC and petition the IURC for approval of a new TDSIC plan. It provides that a utility that terminates a TDSIC plan must petition the IURC for review and approval of the public utility's basic rates and charges with respect to the same type of utility service before the original expiration date of the terminated plan. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The TDSIC plans have been heavily litigated before the Indiana Court of Appeals and the Indiana Supreme Court. This bill would fix and clarify issues with SB 560 that was passed into law in 2013 as identified by the courts. The cleaner and streamlined procedure will decrease administrative and legal costs that are put into the utilities' rate base, which are ultimately paid by the ratepayers.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### HB 1476 POST GRADUATION OUTCOME FUNDING METRICS (Huston)

Establishes the post graduation performance funding pilot program to develop assessment metrics for assessing and rewarding school corporations with performance grants for positive outcomes, including higher education and career and technical education outcomes, for students at least six months after graduation from high school. Requires the Governor to

develop assessment metrics and performance grant amounts for the pilot program. Requires the Governor to prepare and submit reports on the assessment metrics and performance grant amounts developed for the pilot program. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports incentives that align K-12 performance measures with meaningful postsecondary outcomes that recognize the needs of Indiana employers and the state's economy.  
**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

**HB 1494 HEALTH COVERAGE (Delaney)**  
Requires the Department of Insurance to provide annual funding for payments to navigators and assisters to maintain 2017 levels of effort for consumer outreach, education, and enrollment assistance with respect to health care coverage. Requires the Department of Insurance to annually report to the Legislative Council the percentage of Indiana residents who lack health insurance coverage. Prohibits pre-existing condition exclusions in individual policies of accident and sickness insurance, small employer group health insurance plans and health maintenance organization contracts. Repeals provisions providing for pre-existing condition limitations. Specifies that a policy of accident and sickness insurance, a health maintenance organization contract and a state employee health plan must provide for availability, renewability, premium rating and coverage without regard to health status, including pre-existing conditions. Makes conforming amendments. Provides for the Legislative Services Agency to prepare legislation for the 2020 legislative session to make conforming amendments. Makes an appropriation. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The provisions of this bill are currently included in the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA). We are uncertain as to why these would need to be written into state law unless there is a concern that the ACA will be repealed at the federal level.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**HB 1503 LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR DISTRESSED SCHOOLS (Smith)**  
Provides that certain school corporations that are distressed political subdivisions may qualify to have common school fund loans or advances forgiven. Provides that the budget agency may approve to deposit reversions to the state general fund into the common school fund to offset advances or loans forgiven. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The merits of forgiving school loans without a financial audit that determines the underlying cause(s) of a school's budget distress are dubious at best.  
**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

**HB 1505 HEALTH CARE SERVICE COST (Hostettler)**  
Requires health care providers to provide to patients the cost of scheduled health care services. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The bill requires health care providers to provide to patients the cost of scheduled health care services. This

creates more transparency and assists patients in being better consumers of health care services.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**HB 1514 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FEES (Morris)**  
Specifies that the Environmental Rules Board (ERB) may adopt rules that prescribe fees. Provides that the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), rather than the board, is to deposit solid waste fees in the waste facility operator trust fund. Provides for IDEM to receive payment of solid waste fees by electronic fund transfer. Requires the board, in changing the amount of a fee, to take into account the cost to IDEM of amendments, modifications and renewals of a permit, license or approval. Provides that a fee established by the board for a type or class of permit may be set at a particular amount in consideration of the type and amount of discharge or emission to which the permit relates and may not be different in amount for public sector permit holders than for private sector permit holders unless the difference is specifically authorized by law. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Although the Chamber is hesitant to support fee increases, the Chamber's Environmental Policy Committee has consulted with IDEM on its fee schedules, which have not changed in over two decades. IDEM has made a strong case for the increase due to reduced staffing and loss of institutional knowledge. The effect has been slower permit turnaround time and some inaccuracies, causing delays for business and potentially increased costs or lost revenues. The Chamber supports a justified increase based on a cost-service study.  
**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

**HB 1519 CAPTURE OF SALES TAX ON WATER (GiaQuinta)**  
Permits certain units to establish a water infrastructure area to capture sales tax within the tax area to be used for repairing or replacing lead water systems used to provide water service to the public. Requires the fiscal officer of the unit to establish a waterline services repair fund in a unit that has established a tax area. Provides that captured sales tax revenue allocated to an account may be used only to repair or replace lead water systems used to provide water service to the public. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART/OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** The Chamber obviously supports the objective of repairing and replacing unsafe waterlines. However, the Chamber opposes capturing state revenues to pay for these repairs. If the work is justified under the applicable environmental laws, the units should establish a proper plan and the repairs should be covered in accord with environmental laws and built into an approved rate increase.  
**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

**HB 1524 PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT APPEALS (GiaQuinta)**  
Provides that a taxpayer may file an appeal with the Indiana

Board of Tax Review within 45 days after the maximum time elapses if more than 180 days have passed since the taxpayer filed a notice of appeal with the county property tax assessment board of appeals and the county board has not issued a determination. Provides that a party may initiate a proceeding for judicial review within 45 days after the maximum time elapses for the Indiana board to give notice of its final determination. Provides that a county assessor or county board must make a change in an assessed value, including a determination by the county board of an assessment changed by an assessing official, when the county board acts as the assessor, and give notice of the change. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** If the appeal is not heard within a reasonable time, the Chamber supports the right of a taxpayer to have the appeal go to the Indiana Board of Tax Review.  
**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

**HB 1531 LOCAL REGULATION OF NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (Ellington)**  
Provides that a municipal plan commission's inclusion in a comprehensive development plan of an unincorporated area within two miles of the corporate boundaries of the municipality does not authorize the municipal plan commission or a board of zoning appeals to regulate the sale or removal of merchantable timber or the extraction of mineral resources; on private property located in the unincorporated area. Provides, for purposes of a local planning and zoning law stating that a plan commission is not authorized to prevent the use and alienation of mineral resources or forests outside of urban areas, that an area in which there are at least 20 residences within a quarter mile square (instead of eight residences within a quarter mile square) is an "urban area." Prohibits a county, city, town or township from regulating the sale or removal of merchantable timber on private property. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill will fix past and current problems that Indiana businesses have experienced with local government trying to prevent actions allowed under state permits or Indiana law. It should reduce litigation costs as well.  
**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

**HB 1535 MEDICAL CANNABIS PILOT PROGRAM (Hatcher)**  
Establishes a five-year medical cannabis pilot program, administered by the state Department of Health, to permit the use of medical cannabis in Indiana. Imposes a medical cannabis cultivation tax. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** See HB 1377.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**HB 1540 DECRIMINALIZATION OF MARIJUANA (Hatcher)**  
Decriminalizes possession of 10 grams or less of marijuana and makes it a Class C infraction. Specifies that the civil penalty for possession of 10 grams or less of marijuana

must be at least \$100 but may not exceed \$200, and provides for distribution of the funds. Establishes a defense to dealing in marijuana, hashish or hash oil if the defendant delivered 10 grams or less with no expectation of consideration. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber opposes the legalization of recreational marijuana. The Chamber believes decriminalization sends the wrong message about the use of marijuana.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**HB 1551 TOBACCO ISSUES (Aylesworth)**  
Increases the cigarette tax from \$0.995 per pack to \$1.995 per pack. Raises the age from 18 years of age to 21 years of age for prohibitions and crimes concerning the sale, purchase, and possession of cigarettes and other tobacco products. Makes a corresponding change to the laws concerning electronic cigarettes, tobacco retailer permits and admission to establishments where smoking is permitted. Repeals employment protections for individuals who smoke cigarettes or use other tobacco products. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber agrees that the minimum age for tobacco products should be age 21. Most tobacco users begin long before age 21. Increasing the legal access age will cut down on the number of smokers, which in the long term will improve Indiana's overall health rankings. While the Chamber agrees with a tax increase to cut down on the number of smokers, we prefer a \$2.00 increase per pack. This would help more than 70,000 adult smokers quit smoking.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**HB 1565 CIGARETTE TAXES (Kirchhofer)**  
Increases the cigarette tax by \$2 to \$2.995 per pack of regular size cigarettes and a corresponding increase for larger cigarettes. Appropriates for each year of the 2019-2021 biennium \$35,000,000 from the tobacco master settlement agreement fund to the tobacco use prevention and cessation trust fund for the state Department of Health to implement the long-range state plan for the prevention and reduction of the usage of tobacco and tobacco products in Indiana. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Indiana ranks 41st in overall health and 44th in percentage of smokers. Each employee who smokes costs a business \$6,200 per year in health care costs and lost productivity, equaling \$7.6 billion annually in total costs to employers. Raising the cigarette tax would help more than 70,000 adult smokers quit smoking.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**HB 1568 BAN ON SINGLE USE PLASTIC ITEMS IN RESTAURANTS (Bauer)**  
The bill defines "single use restaurant service article" as a plate, eating utensil or straw made of plastic or a cup made of or lined with plastic. It provides that, after June 30,

2020, a person who owns or operates a restaurant and knowingly or intentionally provides to a person purchasing food or drink from the restaurant one or more single use restaurant service articles commits a Class C infraction. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This bill would have a far-reaching impact on businesses that serve food or drink. It would drive up costs with the potential for court backlogs. It would also have a negative impact on businesses that produce the products. **Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

**HB 1571 TAX CREDIT FOR EMPLOYER PROVIDED DISABILITY PLAN (Carbaugh)**  
Provides a state income tax credit for employers that establish a group disability income protection plan for their employees. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Notwithstanding any budgetary impact, this legislation may encourage employers to provide disability insurance for their employees. **Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**HB 1580 COVERAGE FOR ECTODERMAL DYSPLASIA TREATMENT (Reardon)**  
Requires a state employee health plan, a policy of accident and sickness insurance, and a contract with a health maintenance organization to provide coverage for treatment of ectodermal dysplasia. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** See HB 1441. **Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**



**HB 1592 REGULATED DRAINS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS (Hamilton)**  
Authorizes a county surveyor to classify a regulated drain as a drain in need of reconstruction if the functionality of the drain is compromised and the drain could, at a reasonable cost, be reconstructed to perform the function for which it was designed while also better serving the interests of public health or significantly reducing undesirable environmental effects or while also providing flood reduction benefits. It also provides that the maintenance fund established for a regulated drain or combination of regulated drains may be used to better serve the interests of public health, reduce undesirable environmental effects, provide flood reduction benefits, improve drainage control or provide drainage water storage infrastructure or technology associated with water that flows in or into a particular regulated drain or combination of regulated drains. Authorizes a county surveyor, when determining the best method of reconstructing a regulated drain or the best method of drainage for the area to which a petition to establish a new regulated drain relates, to consider cost effective drainage designs. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The bill is consistent with the Chamber's policy objective on water infrastructure and resources. It would allow for another method to invest in infrastructure while controlling cost and protecting resources. It would also attempt to reduce flooding. **Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

**HB 1606 E-LIQUIDS TAXES (Klinker)**  
Imposes a tax on e-liquids that contain nicotine at a rate of \$0.10 per fluid milliliter of consumable product. Deposits the revenue from the tax in the state general fund and the addiction services fund. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Current research has found that the use of e-cigarettes is increasing. Nicotine is addictive and the level of content in many cases is higher than for cigarettes. It is a product that should be taxed. **Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**HB 1608 OVERTIME COMPENSATION FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES (Hatfield)**  
Provides that, after December 31, 2019, certain employees must be paid compensation for employment in certain circumstances at a rate not less than 1.5 times the regular rate at which the employee is employed and, under certain circumstances, not less than two times the regular rate at which the employee is employed. Removes outdated language. Relocates language concerning the tip credit. Makes conforming amendments. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The federal Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 currently establishes that overtime compensation is not less than 1.5 times the regular rate for hours worked in excess of 40 per week for certain employees. This bill expands overtime compensation to include the following: (1) certain employees working longer during a work day than their previously scheduled time and (2) certain employees working in excess of a 52-hour work week to receive compensation at not less than two times the regular rate for hours in excess of 52. While well-intentioned, this could have an adverse financial impact on some employers. **Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**HB 1609 WORK SHARING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT (Hatfield)**  
Establishes a work sharing unemployment insurance program. Requires an employer to submit a work sharing plan for approval by the commissioner of the Department of Workforce Development. Establishes the work sharing benefit as equal to an employee's unemployment benefit reduced by a percentage that is equivalent to the number of hours by which the employee's normal weekly work hours are reduced. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber believes it is better for both the employer and the employee if employees are still working as opposed to being laid off. The program allows employers to retain workers at reduced hours in lieu of a layoff. The employee maintains benefits and is eligible to receive partial unemployment benefits. Based upon a 2015 Ball State University study (revisited in 2018), income may actually stabilize in the manufacturing sector during an economic downturn if work share is available. **Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

HB 1624 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (Lauer)

Establishes the Information Technology Oversight Committee.

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Technology has become such an important segment of the state economy that a continuous focus on the advances and unique needs of the technology industry through an oversight committee is merited.

**Contact: Adam Berry (317) 264-6892**

HB 1628 PRE-KINDERGARTEN  
PROGRAMS (Behning)



Provides that, after June 30, 2019, in addition to the counties currently participating in the pre-kindergarten pilot program, the program includes eligible providers in any county in Indiana. Requires the Office of the Secretary of Family and Social Services to conduct an annual statewide needs assessment to determine which eligible providers are approved to accept grants. Provides that the total number of grants the office awards to eligible children in certain participating counties during a state fiscal year may not be less than the total number of grants the office awarded to eligible children in that county during the immediately preceding state fiscal year unless the office determines that there is an insufficient number of eligible children or eligible providers in the county to justify the total number of grants for that county. Adds a provision (beginning July 1, 2020) to increase the total number of grants awarded in Marion County in an amount at least equal to the number of children served under the Indy Preschool Scholarship Program during the 2018-2019 school year. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports efforts to expand student access to quality early childhood and pre-kindergarten programs statewide as proven drivers of student achievement and economic development.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

HB 1629 VARIOUS EDUCATION  
MATTERS (Behning)



Provides that, for purposes of the Indiana open door law, the term "public record" does not include internal electronic communications between staff members of a school corporation or charter school. Makes changes to the definition of "elementary school". Provides that each school corporation may encourage the development of a community service ethic among high school students in grades nine through 12. (Current law provides that each school corporation may encourage the development of a community service ethic among high school students in grade 11 or 12.) Provides that the governing body of a school corporation that operates a career or technical education center must admit students who attend a charter school or state accredited nonpublic school if the charter school, state accredited nonpublic school or student provides the governing body tuition for the student, which may not be greater than the per capita cost of operating the system of industrial or manual training. Requires the State Board of Education, beginning with the cohort of students that is expected

to graduate in the 2022-2023 school year (2022-2023 cohort), to include certain student outcome information as a component of the statewide school accountability system. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This proposal contains several worthwhile provisions supported by the Chamber, including: 1) School accountability: Transitioning to meaningful outcome metrics aligned with the needs of employers and economic opportunity is critical to preparing Hoosier students for success in a 21st century workforce; 2) Graduation standards: Requiring students to complete at least one career-technical education credit and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) furthers the development of essential employability skills and ensures Hoosier students have the financial resources to continue their education and training beyond high school; and 3) EARN Indiana: Expanding access to the state's work-study program to high school (as well as college) students promotes earlier acquisition of essential employability skills and incentivizes increased employer engagement in a critical talent development strategy.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

HB 1642 NEXT GENERATION HOOSIER  
EDUCATORS SCHOLARSHIP (Behning)

Provides that, in awarding a next generation Hoosier educators scholarship, the Commission for Higher Education shall give priority to the following: (1) An eligible applicant who is a member of a household with an annual income of not more than 185% of the federal poverty level. (2) An eligible applicant who intends to teach in the area of science, technology, engineering or mathematics. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports efforts to strengthen this teacher attraction and retention scholarship by ensuring state financial aid dollars are directed to students with need and to prioritize teacher recruitment/placement in high need shortage areas, particularly in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) disciplines.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

HB 1648 CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY  
TRAINING (Deal)

Establishes a tax credit for taxpayers that establish clean energy training positions to provide training in technology involving solar, wind energy or geothermal energy facilities and equipment. Requires the owner or operator of an above ground storage tank (AST) that is designed to contain more than 660 gallons of liquid to report certain information about the AST to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) before January 1, 2020. It also establishes certain exceptions from this reporting requirement. The bill requires the Environmental Rules Board (ERB) to adopt rules concerning the reporting requirement. It also requires the ERB to adopt rules concerning surface water quality threat minimization and response plans. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** Although the Chamber supports renewable energy and efforts to minimize threats to our surface water resources, there are some issues with the proposed legislation. The tax credit is available whether or

not the individual was trained previously. The fiscal impact from the bill to the general fund could be \$500,000 to \$1.25 million annually. The U.S. Department of Energy already provides funding for training programs like the Solar Training Network designed to help meet the workforce needs of the solar industry through training and strategic employment partnership. The above-ground storage tanks have many current reporting and control requirements. As written, SEA 312 (2015) casts a broad net with many unintended consequences. The identification of above-ground storage tanks should be done in a way to identify the high-risk tanks and other efforts to minimize the risk.  
**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### HB 1650 ELIMINATION OF TOWNSHIP BOARDS (Ziemke)



Provides that on January 1, 2020, in all counties (except Marion County): (1) township boards are dissolved; (2) the duties and responsibilities of the township board are transferred to the township trustee; (3) the township trustee has the legislative and fiscal powers and duties of the township, in addition to the executive powers and duties; and (4) the property and personnel of the township board are transferred to the township trustee. Beginning with property taxes due and payable in calendar year 2021 in a county not having a consolidated city, the township trustee shall submit the township budget to the county fiscal body for review and approval, if the township's proposed tax rate exceeds the statewide township property tax rate average during the preceding five years by at least 3% for property taxes due and payable that same year. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Township boards represent a system where three elected officials oversee, approve the operations and authorize the contracts and expenditures of a fourth elected official, the township trustee. In practical terms, the boards function as little more than a rubber stamp for what the trustee does. The trustee can and should be held accountable to and by their electorate, the county fiscal body, the auditor and the State Board of Accounts. Their actions should remain subject to public hearings and the scrutiny of the taxpayers. But it is inefficient and wasteful of tax dollars to support and maintain a governmental structure that includes these 3,000-plus essentially unneeded officials.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### HB 1653 ESSENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS (Delaney)



Prohibits pre-existing condition exclusions in individual and small group policies of accident and sickness insurance, and health maintenance organization contracts. Specifies benefits that must be included in individual and small group policies of accident and sickness insurance and health maintenance organization contracts. Repeals provisions providing for pre-existing condition exclusions in small group policies of accident and sickness insurance. Requires the Legislative Services Agency to draft legislation for introduction in the 2020

session of the General Assembly to make conforming changes to the Indiana Code. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** See HB 1494.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1655 PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS AND ESSENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS (Austin)



Prohibits pre-existing condition exclusions in, and use of a pre-existing condition to determine a premium for, individual policies of accident and sickness insurance, small employer group health insurance plans, and health maintenance organization contracts. Specifies benefits that must be included in individual and small group policies of accident and sickness insurance and health maintenance organization contracts. Repeals provisions providing for individual and association group accident and sickness insurance policy waivers of coverage. Repeals provisions providing for pre-existing condition exclusions in small employer group health insurance plans. Requires the Legislative Services Agency to draft legislation for introduction in the 2020 session of the General Assembly to make conforming changes to the Indiana Code. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** See HB 1494.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1658 DECRIMINALIZATION OF MARIJUANA (VanNatter)



Decriminalizes possession of two ounces or less of marijuana. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** See HB 1540.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### HB 1666 VENTURE CAPITAL TAX CREDITS (Smaltz)

Provides that the venture capital investment tax credit may be applied against any retaliatory premium tax liability imposed on out-of-state insurance companies. (A retaliatory tax is added in determining Indiana insurance premium tax liability when the state in which the insurance company is domiciled imposes higher taxes and fees on an Indiana domiciled insurer for the same business.) Increases the maximum amount of tax credits available under the venture capital investment tax credit for the provision of qualified investment capital to a particular qualified Indiana business to be the lesser of: (1) the total amount of qualified investment capital provided to the qualified business, multiplied by: (A) 40%, in the case of a qualified business that is located within a low income community; or (B) 25%, in the case of any other qualified business (other than a qualified business located in a low income community); or (2) \$1,500,000; for calendar years after 2019. ... **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** Indiana does not fare well in competing for capital investment to fuel our state's promising start-up companies. Many other states with lesser economies (proportionately speaking) have proven much more able to attract capital from out-of-state investors. This is in large part due to the limitations on our venture capital investment tax credit. Expanding the credit

and raising the cap would help rectify this circumstance and bring more capital into the state.

**Contacts: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887;**

**Adam Berry (317) 264-6892**

#### HB 1670 TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

(Lauer)



Repeals the fuel tax index factors. Fixes the gasoline tax rate at 29 cents per gallon, the gasoline tax rate in effect on July 1, 2018. Fixes the special fuel tax rate at 48 cents per gallon, the special fuel tax rate in effect on July 1, 2018. Increases the percentages for distributions from the motor vehicle highway account to counties, cities and towns: (1) from 12.13% to 15%, for cities and towns; and (2) from 25.87% to 30%, for counties. Eliminates the inflation adjustment of the supplemental fees to register electric and hybrid vehicles. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This bill is expected to decrease revenue the State Highway Fund and the Motor Carrier Regulation Fund receives from changes to the annual fuel tax indexing formula and the Motor Vehicle Highway Account (MVHA) distribution changes. Revenue losses will continue to increase annually. This would undo the work of HB 1002 in 2017 that addressed the structural deficit of Indiana's road funding. Indiana needs more money; \$1.2 billion a year on average to make our roads and bridges safer and business and personal travels much smoother. This is a priority issue of the Chamber's *Indiana Vision 2025* plan.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### HB 1678 HIGH SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY

(Pfaff)

Provides that the performance of a school's students on the statewide assessment program test may not be used in determining a secondary school's performance for purposes of calculating the school's accountability grade. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber maintains that objective measures of student learning and achievement are essential indicators in the state's school accountability system.

Prohibiting the use of such performance measures, as this bill proposes, would be a step backwards in Indiana's efforts to ensure academic achievement and meaningful post-graduation opportunities for all Hoosier students.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

## SENATE BILLS

#### SB 4 WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITIES AND RUNOFF

(Charbonneau, Merritt, Koch)



Requires the Indiana finance authority (IFA) to divide the state of Indiana into study areas and to hold annual meetings with the officers and employees of the water and wastewater utilities located in each study area. Authorizes the utilities

within a study area to meet voluntarily to determine area water and wastewater priorities, promote cooperation among the utilities and consider other matters. Requires biennial reports from the utilities of each study area and from the IFA on the cooperative activities of the utilities. Provides that a utility applying to the IFA for a loan, a grant or other financial assistance must demonstrate that its officers and employees have participated in study area activities. Requires every water utility, at least once in each calendar year, to perform an audit of its water distribution system to determine the causes of the water utility's "non-revenue water" (leaks or lost water). Provides that, under certain circumstances, a permit may be issued for the operation of a public water system or for the discharge from a wastewater treatment plant without a certification that a life cycle cost-benefit analysis, a capital asset management plan, and a plan have been prepared. Amends the definition of "customer lead service line improvement". **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill is consistent with the Chamber's past positions on water resources and one of the drivers of the Chamber's *Indiana Vision 2025* plan, which has identified water resources as an important consideration in economic development. It also fixes some confusion created in SB 362 (2018) in that it defines a wastewater treatment plant (for regulatory purposes), which does not include wastewater treatment plants installed by businesses to treat their own wastewater.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### SB 6 DROPOUT RECOVERY PROGRAMS (Raatz)

Provides that a school corporation is eligible to receive a dropout prevention grant if the school corporation establishes a dropout prevention program. Establishes requirements for school corporation dropout prevention programs. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports the expansion of effective dropout prevention programs that ensure at-risk students are equipped to become productive, contributing members of their community and the state's workforce.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 7 MARION COUNTY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD (Mishler)

Marion County Capital Improvement Board. Allows the expansion of the professional sports development area (tax area) in Marion County. Changes the maximum amount of state revenue that may be captured in the tax area after July 1, 2021. Authorizes the city-county council to adopt a resolution that continues imposition of the increase to the county supplemental auto rental excise tax through February 28, 2038. Authorizes the city-county council to adopt a resolution that continues imposition of the increase to the county admissions tax through February 28, 2038. Authorizes the city-county council to adopt a resolution that continues the capture of Marion County capital improvement board. Allows the expansion of the professional sports development area (tax area) in Marion County. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:**

The Chamber supports efforts to enhance the downtown sports facilities in Indianapolis and secure the Indiana Pacers' presence in Indiana for many years to come.

**Contact: Kevin Brinegar (317) 264-6882**

#### SB 9 WORKER CAREER ENHANCEMENT TAX CREDIT (Ruckelshaus)

Provides a credit against state tax liability to an eligible employer of an employee who earns the federal or state minimum wage, completes a career enhancement training program, receives a wage increase following completion of the program and remains employed for at least a year after receiving the wage increase. Provides that the amount of the credit is 50% of the difference between the employee's compensation before and after the employee receives the wage increase. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports tax and related financial incentives for employers that upskill their employees with commensurate increases in wages/compensation based, at least in part, on the attainment of skills/credentials in alignment with the state's workforce development. Further study regarding the fiscal implications to the state's budget may be warranted.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 12 BIAS/HATE CRIMES (Bohachek)

Makes it an aggravating circumstance (for purposes of imposing a criminal sentence) that a crime was committed with the intent to harm or intimidate an individual or a group of individuals because of certain perceived or actual characteristics of the individual or group of individuals. Requires law enforcement agencies to report bias motivated crimes to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** See HB 1020.

**Contact: Kevin Brinegar (317) 264-6882**



#### SB 25 USE OF CONSUMER REPORTS FOR EMPLOYMENT PURPOSES (Randolph)

Prohibits an employer from using a consumer report for employment purposes unless certain conditions apply. Allows a consumer to bring a civil action against an employer for a violation of this provision. Provides that if the attorney general has reason to believe that an employer has violated the provision, the attorney general may bring one or both of the following: (1) An action to enjoin the violation. (2) An action to recover damages sustained by Indiana residents as a result of the violation. Makes it: (1) a Class B infraction for a knowing or intentional violation of the provision; or (2) a Class A infraction if an employer has a prior unrelated judgment for a violation of the provision **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, first passed in 1970, requires that employers get permission from candidates before checking their credit. An employee or prospective employee must give consent for reports to be provided to employers. That being said, small employers need every tool they can use to make smart hiring decisions. Credit reports

provide objective information about a person's past behavior. Employers have the right to know about the integrity and history of employees they intend to employ.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### SB 26 MEDICAL MALPRACTICE ACTIONS (Randolph)

Permits a patient to bring an action against a health care provider without submitting the complaint to the medical review board if the amount of the claim is not more than \$187,000. (Under current law, a patient may bring a direct action only if the amount is not more than \$15,000.) **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** Raising the threshold for the medical review board from \$15,000 to \$187,000 will increase the number of malpractice cases that will be filed in court. Indiana has one of the best medical malpractice systems in the country; the Chamber wants to keep it that way.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**



#### SB 82 EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (Melton)

Repeals the prohibition of local units from establishing, mandating or requiring certain employee benefits. Allows for local units to maintain a higher minimum wage rate than the state's minimum wage. After December 31, 2019, increases the minimum wage paid to certain employees from \$7.25 per hour to \$9 per hour, then annually increases the minimum wage in \$0.50 increments to \$12 per hour through January 1, 2026. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** Raises the minimum wage for local units of government and state employees, thus increasing local and state expenditures.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**



#### SB 94 ANNEXATION (Boots)

Provides, with certain exceptions, that the following apply to annexations for which an annexation ordinance is adopted after April 30, 2019: (1) A municipality initiating an annexation must file a petition with the court signed by at least: (A) 51% of the owners of land that is not exempt from property taxes in the annexation territory; or ... **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports curtailing the use of remonstrance waivers, which unnecessarily restrict taxpayers from exercising their right to voice opinions on annexations that impact their property.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### SB 99 WAGE ASSIGNMENTS FOR CLOTHING AND TOOLS (Boots)

Provides that a wage assignment may be made to pay for the rental or use of uniforms, shirts, pants, other job-related clothing, equipment or tools necessary to fulfill the duties of employment **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The U.S. Southern District Court of Indiana determined that a wage assignment could not be used for the rental of uniforms – only purchase.

This bill fixes that and clarifies what else as far as clothing may be included in a wage assignment.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### SB 108 COVERAGE FOR PHARMACIST CARE (Grooms)

Requires an accident and sickness insurer that enters into a preferred provider agreement to: (1) reimburse for health care service provided by a pharmacist within the scope of practice to the same extent and in the same manner as the insurer would reimburse certain other health care providers; and (2) demonstrate an adequate number of pharmacists within a reasonable proximity to insureds. Requires a preferred provider agreement to provide for the reimbursement.

**Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The State Personnel Department reports this bill is expected to have a significant cost to the state employee health plan. Likewise, this will be mandated to small group health plans (only about 20% of the market) and drive up their already high health care plan costs as well.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### SB 117 WAIVER TRAINING REIMBURSEMENT PILOT PROGRAM (Merritt)

Establishes the physician waiver training reimbursement pilot program to reimburse qualified physicians who undergo certain training, for the purpose of increasing the number of physicians in Indiana allowed under the federal Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 to prescribe certain controlled substances to treat opioid dependency in settings other than an opioid treatment program. Establishes requirements for participation in the pilot program. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** May lessen the opioid crisis by increasing the number of Indiana physicians prescribing controlled substances to treat opioid dependency in settings other than an opioid treatment program.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### SB 124 EMPLOYERS AND EXPUNGEMENT (Taylor)

Specifies that the prohibition against questioning a person applying for: (1) employment; (2) a license; or (3) another right or privilege; concerning an expunged arrest or conviction also applies during an interview. Provides that a person who unlawfully questions an applicant about an expunged criminal record commits a Class C infraction, and increases the penalty to a Class B infraction for a subsequent violation. Limits the number of violations that may be charged to: (1) one violation against a person without a prior adjudication; and (2) not more than one violation per month against a person with one or more prior adjudications; regardless of the number of individual violations the person may have committed. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber believes this is problematic for employers. Sometimes criminal offenses may still appear on a background

check despite having been legally expunged by a court.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### SB 128 SCHOOL CALENDAR (Leising)

Prohibits public schools and accredited nonpublic schools from beginning student instructional days for the school year before the last Monday in August, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** School calendars are determined locally within the parameters of the state's requirement for a minimum of 180 instructional days. Moreover, later school start dates may be detrimental to local efforts to address academic achievement gaps for at-risk students, including but not limited to summer learning loss.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 131 SALES TAX ON RECREATIONAL VEHICLES (Doriot)

Repeals the provision that provides that the sales tax rate on certain cargo trailers or recreational vehicles is the rate of the other state or other country in which the cargo trailer or recreational vehicle will be titled or registered. (This provision is also set to expire on June 30, 2019, under current law.)

Repeals the provision that authorizes the Department of Revenue to enter into reciprocal agreements with other states concerning a sales tax exemption for cargo trailers and recreational vehicles that will be purchased in a state by a nonresident and then titled in another state. Provides instead that the purchase of a recreational vehicle or cargo trailer that is transported out of Indiana for registration and use in another state or country is exempt from the state gross retail tax regardless of whether the destination state or country provides a similar exemption for Indiana residents. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** There is little reason to complicate the sale of recreational vehicles to customers that intend to register the recreational vehicle outside of Indiana. The legislation would have a direct benefit on both the Indiana-based recreational vehicle dealerships and the Indiana recreational vehicle manufacturers that supply those dealers.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### SB 137 BAN ON SALE OR USE OF COAL TAR PAVEMENT PRODUCTS (Niezgodski)



Prohibits the: (1) sale or offer for sale; and (2) application to pavement of a coal tar pavement product except as required for purposes of research on the effects of the coal tar pavement product on the environment. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The bill would have a detrimental impact on Indiana businesses that produce and/or use this product. Currently, the product is considered safe to use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Thus, the Chamber supports the use of coal tar as a resource for use as a pavement product.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

### SB 143 SALES TAX DISTRICT FOR HEALTHY FOOD PROGRAMS (Taylor)

Allows the fiscal body of a county to adopt an ordinance to impose an additional sales tax in an area designated by the fiscal body as a special food desert district. Requires a district designated by a fiscal body to be located in a census tract with low median income and low access to the nearest supermarket as determined by the United States Department of Agriculture in its Food Access Research Atlas. Provides that an additional sales tax applies to retail transactions within the district. Provides that the additional sales tax rate must be imposed in an increment of .25% and may not exceed 1%. Specifies that this additional sales tax is imposed, paid, and collected in the same manner as the state sales tax. Establishes the healthy food and community development financing fund under the administration of the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCA). ... Specifies the purposes for which financing for a project may be used. Continuously appropriates money in the fund. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART/OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports the objective of creating healthy food programs. However, the Chamber opposes the means provided for financing those programs. Establishing a structure that authorizes the collection of a local sales tax in addition to the state-imposed rate is contrary to sound policy and would be detrimental to economic development in the very areas that are sought to be improved by this bill.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

### SB 146 PRESCRIBING OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE (Merritt)

Requires that a controlled substance prescription be issued electronically after June 30, 2020, and establishes a Class B infraction for a prescriber who fails to comply. Requires a prescriber to obtain three hours of continuing education every two years on the prescribing of opioid medication in order to continue issuing prescriptions for opioid medication, and establishes a Class B infraction for failure to comply. Requires the Medical Licensing Board of Indiana to study and determine, before November 1, 2019, whether a waiver is necessary for the electronic prescription requirement and to report back to the General Assembly. Sets forth requirements for the report.

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Requiring electronic prescriptions may reduce the number of opioids prescribed.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

### SB 162 CHRONIC PAIN MANAGEMENT (Messmer)

Requires state employee health plans, Medicaid, policies of accident and sickness insurance, and health maintenance organization contracts to provide coverage for chronic pain management. Requires a practitioner to prescribe other forms of treatment for certain chronic pain before prescribing an opioid. Requires the Office of Medicaid Policy



and Planning to apply for any Medicaid state plan amendment necessary to provide the coverage. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** See HB 1441.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

### SB 183 VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOLS (Melton)

Provides that a charter for a virtual charter school granted or renewed before July 1, 2019, by an authorizer other than the Indiana Charter School Board terminates at the end of the term of the charter and may not be renewed by the authorizer. Provides that, for charters granted or renewed after June 30, 2019, a virtual charter school may apply for authorization only with the Charter School Board in accordance with the board's guidelines. (Current law provides that a virtual charter school may apply for authorization with any statewide authorizer in accordance with the authorizer's guidelines.) Requires the Charter School Board and a virtual charter school to jointly determine certain goals regarding the virtual charter school and include those goals in the charter. Provides that, beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, a virtual charter school may not have more than a total of 1,200 students enrolled in the virtual charter school each school year. ...

**Position: OPPOSE Reason:** By limiting the ability for charter authorizers (e.g., city of Indianapolis, Ball State University, etc.) other than the state Charter School Board to renew virtual charter schools, this proposal may negatively impact school choice options for Hoosier families and create barriers for local education entities/operators to respond to the needs of their constituents and community.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

### SB 188 NURSING FACULTY LOAN REPAYMENT GRANT PROGRAM (Becker, Leising)

Establishes the nursing faculty loan repayment grant program to increase the number of nursing faculty in Indiana. Requires the Commission for Higher Education to administer the program. Establishes the nursing faculty loan repayment grant fund. Sets forth requirements for an individual to participate in the program. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports efforts to attract and retain talent to meet the needs of Indiana employers and the state's economy, particularly in high need shortage areas such as nursing.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

### SB 193 SEWER AND WATER CONNECTIONS THROUGH RIGHTS-OF-WAY (Bohacek)

Provides that a unit of local government may not prohibit a property owner from installing a sewer line or other sewage works: in or through a public right-of-way owned or controlled by the unit and for the purpose of connecting the owner's property to a sewer system owned or operated by another unit or entity; if the owner provides proof that the owner's existing sewage disposal system is failing and the property owner restores all public property damaged by the installation/connection to the sewer

system. Provides that in the case of a connection to a sewer system made under these provisions, a municipality (or a board of sanitary commissioners) that owns or operates the sewer system to which the connection is made may waive the requirement that the property owner must release the property owner's right to remonstrate against pending or future annexations of the property owner's property by the municipality. Provides that a unit may not prohibit a property owner from installing a water service line or other water utility service infrastructure in or through a public right-of-way owned or controlled by the unit if the property owner's property is served by a private water well and certain other conditions are met. **Position: SUPPORT IN**

**PART/OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports the protection of public health and the water resources of Indiana, which is what this bill would accomplish by allowing connection to sewer systems. However, we oppose the continued use of waivers of remonstrance against proposed annexation of property by municipalities. These waivers are binding on subsequent property owners. This bill has the potential to negatively impact businesses as well as residential property owners.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### SB 204 HEALTH STATUS RELATED REQUIREMENTS (Lanane)

Specifies that a state employee health plan, a policy of accident and sickness insurance, and a health maintenance organization contract must provide for availability, renewability, premium rating and coverage without regard to health status, including pre-existing conditions. Makes conforming amendments.

Provides for the Legislative Services Agency to prepare legislation for the 2020 legislative session to make conforming amendments. Repeals current law providing for issuance of certain policies of accident and sickness insurance under which coverage for pre-existing conditions is waived. **Position:**

**OPPOSE Reason:** See HB 1494.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### SB 211 CANNABIS COMPLIANCE COMMISSION (Tallian)

Establishes the Cannabis Compliance Commission to regulate all forms of legal cannabis in Indiana, including industrial hemp and low THC hemp extract. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** While there is no reason to regulate cannabis sativa (marijuana) since it remains illegal at the federal level, because Indiana has made CBD oil at .3% (low) THC legal there is some merit to discussing the regulation of this product.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### SB 213 POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA (Tallian)

Provides that a person who knowingly or intentionally possesses more than two ounces of marijuana commits the offense of possession of marijuana. (Current law provides that the offense of possession of marijuana can be for any amount of



marijuana.) Repeals the offense of possession of marijuana, hash oil, hashish or salvia as a Level 6 felony. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber strongly opposes the legalization of recreational marijuana. Thus, we do not believe it is prudent to increase the possession threshold for it to be a crime. This is nothing more than a backdoor way of saying it's okay to use marijuana in smaller amounts.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### SB 214 MINIMUM WAGE (Tallian)

Increases the state minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$11.12 an hour. Eliminates the tip credit in determining the minimum wage paid to a tipped employee.

**Position: OPPOSE Reason:** See HB 1081.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**



#### SB 227 PEER-TO-PEER CAR RENTALS (Houchin)

Specifies that a car facilitation company is a company facilitating the noncommercial use of a privately-owned passenger motor vehicle by a person other than the vehicle's registered owner. Provides that a car facilitation company is treated the same as a car rental company under the trade regulation statutes and for purposes of the state gross retail and use tax, the state auto rental excise tax, and the Marion County and Vanderburgh County car rental excise taxes. Specifies requirements related to a car facilitation transaction and vehicle safety recalls. Makes conforming amendments.

**Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** See HB 1119.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### SB 233 BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION (Freeman)

Increases, from \$20,000 to \$40,000, the acquisition cost threshold for the business personal property tax exemption.

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill has a very nominal fiscal impact – particularly in comparison to the benefit it provides to small businesses which must prepare or pay more for the preparation of a return than they ultimately owe in business personal property tax. The average tax liability of taxpayers exempted under this is \$145.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**



#### SB 242 TELEMEDICINE AND MEDICAL DEVICES (Freeman)

Removes the restriction on the prescribing of ophthalmic devices through telemedicine and sets conditions on when a provider may, through telemedicine, prescribe medical devices. Prohibits the Indiana Optometry Board from setting standards for the practice of ocular telemedicine or ocular telehealth that are more restrictive than the standards established for in person practice.

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The bill removes the restriction on the prescribing of ophthalmic devices through telemedicine, which was prohibited when the telemedicine bill passed in 2016.

The Chamber supports the use of telemedicine because of the potential of increasing access to care and cost savings.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### SB 247 ANNUAL INSPECTIONS OF CFOs (Niemeyer)

Requires the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), at least once per year, to conduct an onsite inspection of every concentrated animal feeding operation (CFO), which, under federal regulations, is an animal feeding operation: (1) at which more than 1,000 head of beef cattle, 700 dairy cows, 2,500 swine weighing more than 55 pounds, 125,000 broiler chickens or 82,000 laying hens or pullets are confined on a site for more than 45 days during the year; or (2) that discharges manure or wastewater into a waterway. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** There are adequate rules and regulations in place to control Indiana's CFO operations. New regulations would likely only serve to increase the costs of CFO operations, plus IDEM is already experiencing staffing issues.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### SB 248 DISTRIBUTIONS OF PUBLIC SAFETY INCOME TAX REVENUE (Niemeyer)

Requires the distribution of public safety local income tax revenues to a township that provides fire protection or emergency medical services. Permits a qualified fire protection territory to be eligible to receive distributions of public safety local income tax revenues. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** There is no justification for denying a property tax distribution to townships that provide the equivalent public safety service as other entities that receive the distributions.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### SB 250 TEACHER EVALUATIONS (Jon Ford)

Provides that a school corporation may use objective measures of student achievement as part of a teacher evaluation plan. (Current law provides that the use of an objective measure of student achievement is required as part of a teacher evaluation plan.) **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber believes that objective measures of student performance should be part of teacher evaluations. This bill would make these objective performance measures optional.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 257 USE OF CREDIT INFORMATION IN INSURANCE (Taylor)

Prohibits an insurer's use of credit information in underwriting or rating risks. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** Insurers have algorithms that determine relationships between credit score and frequency of accidents. As a result, this reduces rates for those who have good credit.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### SB 259 WAGE DISCRIMINATION (Mrvan)

Provides that it is an unlawful employment practice to: (1) pay wages that discriminate based on sex for substantially similar work; (2) discharge, discipline, discriminate against, coerce, intimidate, threaten or interfere with any employee or other person because the employee inquired about, disclosed, compared or otherwise discussed the employee's wages; (3) require as a condition of employment nondisclosure by an employee of the employee's wages; or (4) require an employee to sign a waiver or other document that purports to deny the employee the right to disclose the employee's wage information. Provides that the Civil Rights Commission has jurisdiction for the investigation and resolution of complaints of these employment actions. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** See SB 395.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### SB 262 MINIMUM WAGE (Mrvan)

Increases, after June 30, 2020, the minimum wage paid to certain employees in Indiana from \$7.25 an hour to \$15 an hour. Provides that, after June 30, 2021, and each subsequent June 30, the hourly minimum wage increases at the same percentage as any increase in the Consumer Price Index for the preceding calendar year. Makes technical corrections and corresponding changes. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** See HB 1081.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**



#### SB 270 RECUSAL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (Head)

Provides that county, city, town and township elected officials are disqualified from participating in a matter regarding a decision or vote if the local official has a direct or indirect financial interest in the outcome of a decision before the body the local official serves that is related to the local official's conflict of interest. Provides that a local official who is disqualified from participating in such a matter may not attempt to persuade or otherwise influence another local official's vote on a matter for which the local official has a conflict of interest. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Local officials simply should not participate in decisions that impact them financially.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### SB 275 SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (Raatz)

Amends the date on which the office of the state superintendent of public instruction is abolished. Provides for the appointment of the secretary of education by the Governor beginning January 11, 2021. (Current law provides that the Governor does not appoint the secretary of education until January 11, 2025.) **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** See HB 1005. **Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**



#### SB 277 TEACHER LEADERS (Raatz)

Requires the State Board of Education to establish standards

that a teacher must meet to qualify as a teacher leader and be eligible to receive a teacher leader endorsement. Provides that the State Board may establish multiple standards and more than one pathway of standards that a teacher may meet to qualify as a teacher leader. Provides that the standards established by the state board may include part or all of the teacher leader model standards established by the Teacher Leadership Exploratory Consortium. Provides that, if a teacher meets the standards established by the state board and applies to the Department of Education for a teacher leader endorsement, the department shall add to the teacher's teaching license a teacher leader endorsement that indicates the teacher has met the standards established by the State Board. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports efforts to establish standards to ensure statewide consistency and clarity regarding teacher development and effectiveness.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 290 PREVAILING WAGE (Niezgodski)

Requires that, whenever the actual costs for the construction of a public improvement are at least \$150,000, a contractor or subcontractor shall pay the workers employed in the performance of work for the construction of the public improvement a rate of wages that is not less than the prevailing wage determined by the commissioner of the Department of Labor. Requires that employer contributions for fringe benefits paid under a bona fide collective bargaining agreement be included in the prevailing wage determination unless a contractor or subcontractor is required by federal, state or local law to provide the fringe benefit. Provides that a prevailing wage determination is conclusive for one year from the date of the determination unless the determination is superseded by a later determination. Requires that all prevailing wage determinations be publicly available. Requires that a contract or subcontract for the construction of a public improvement contain a provision stating that the contractor or subcontractor is required to pay a rate of wages that is not less than the prevailing wage, and that, if it is determined that a worker has been paid less than the prevailing wage, the public body may terminate the contract or part of the contract and continue the work with the public body's own work force or another contractor or subcontractor. law. .... **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This bill drives up the cost of construction for public improvement projects. Moreover, it undoes the common construction wage legislation that the Chamber supported in 2012.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### SB 294 LOCAL AIR POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY CONTRACTS (Randolph)

Authorizes a county, city or town to establish or designate an agency to act for the county, city or town as a local air pollution control agency. Requires the commissioner of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to enter into a contract with a county, city or town air pollution

control agency that is willing to enter into the contract.

**Position: OPPOSE Reason:** All local air pollution control agencies were unfunded a number of years ago. IDEM has shown that it is capable of performing those duties.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### SB 304 INTIMIDATION AGAINST UTILITY WORKERS (Koch)

Provides that a person who communicates a threat to another person with the intent of interfering with the provision of utility service or communications service for a dwelling, building or other structure commits intimidation, a Class A misdemeanor. Provides that the offense is a Level 6 felony if the person to whom the threat is communicated is an employee or agent of a utility company or a communications service provider engaged in the performance of the person's duties on behalf of the utility or the communications service provider. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Provides additional needed protection to workers that often interface with people in difficult situations without the ability to protect themselves.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### SB 313 PUBLICATION OF TOWNSHIP ABSTRACT (Niemeyer)

Eliminates the requirement that a township publish its annual abstract of receipts and expenditures. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This bill is about maintaining basic transparency in public expenditures. Eliminating the abstract runs contrary to government transparency.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### SB 316 ELIMINATION OF ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS OF ASSESSED VALUES (Niemeyer)

Eliminates the annual adjustments (or "trending") to assessed values of certain real property for assessment dates beginning after December 31, 2019. Retains the provisions in current law that require four-year cyclical reassessments. Allows a reassessment plan for the four-year cyclical reassessments to include trending factors in the plan. Does not eliminate the annual adjustment for agricultural land. Makes conforming changes. Makes technical corrections. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** Trending is the only effective way to maintain equity between real property taxpayers and personal property taxpayers on an annual basis. Without trending, real property value increases would not be captured and would shift the burden to personal property taxpayers who must report valuation changes on an annual basis.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### SB 317 CUSTODY OF DOCUMENTS UNDER AUDIT (Niemeyer)

Removes provisions regarding the authority of the State Board of Accounts to conduct an examination without notice to an

entity subject to examination. Specifies the manner in which records requested as part of an examination must be handled. Requires the board, in the case of an examination of a township, to: (1) notify the township executive of the records requested by the board; and (2) allow the executive to bring the requested records to the circuit court clerk's office. Makes corresponding changes. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The board should not be reasonably impeded from conducting an audit in the most effective manner and under procedures that best assure the accuracy of the audit.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### SB 318 AGE FOR COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE (Taylor)

Provides that a student is bound by compulsory school attendance requirements from the beginning of the fall school term for the school year in which the student is five years of age on August 1 of that school year. (Current law provides that a student is bound by compulsory school attendance requirements from the beginning of the fall school term for the school year in which the student becomes seven years of age.) **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Given the increasing importance of early childhood education, the Chamber supports students starting school before the age of seven (current law).

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 322 SALES TAX ADMINISTRATION (Holdman)

Provides that a marketplace facilitator is required to collect and remit state sales tax as a retail merchant when it facilitates a retail transaction for sellers on the marketplace facilitator's marketplace. Specifies circumstances in which a marketplace facilitator or a seller would not be required to collect and remit the state sales tax on the retail sale. Retains provisions that go into effect on July 1, 2019, for state sales tax collection and remittance requirements of an accommodations facilitator that facilitates a retail transaction for sellers that rent or furnish rooms, lodgings or accommodations in Indiana. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports the objective of this bill to simplify and maximize the collection of sales tax on online transactions. This bill can potentially benefit all parties involved in the transaction so long as it is done in a fair and equitable manner that respects the rights of the seller, the collector and the consumer.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### SB 339 ELIGIBILITY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AWARDS (Melton)

Repeals a provision that provides that the Commission for Higher Education may not provide assistance to a higher education award applicant or recipient who is: (1) convicted of a felony; (2) sentenced to a term of imprisonment for that felony; and (3) confined for that felony at a penal facility.

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Given the increased

importance of education attainment to Indiana's economy, the Chamber supports efforts to upskill and credential individuals who can contribute to the state's workforce and meet the needs of employers, including the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated populations.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 342 EMPLOYMENT OF MINORS (Perfect)

Eliminates limitations on the employment of students. Makes conforming amendments. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports efforts to eliminate barriers to exposing students to meaningful work-based learning experiences and helping employers strengthen their talent pipelines by engaging Hoosier students earlier in their education process, provided necessary safeguards for minors are assured.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### SB 346 PRE-KINDERGARTEN PILOT PROGRAM (J.D. Ford)



Provides that, after June 30, 2019, in addition to the counties currently participating in the pre-kindergarten pilot program, the program includes eligible providers in any county in Indiana. Provides that the total amount of grants the office of the secretary of family and social services awards to eligible children in certain participating counties during a state fiscal year may not be less than the total amount of grants the office awarded to eligible children in that county during the immediately preceding state fiscal year unless the office determines that there is an insufficient number of eligible children or eligible providers in the county to justify the total amount of grants for that county. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports the state's expansion of quality early childhood and pre-kindergarten programs as a key driver for student achievement, career preparation and workforce development.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 348 COVENANTS NOT TO COMPETE (J.D. Ford)

Provides that an employer may not require that an employee or a prospective employee whose earnings do not exceed \$15 an hour sign a covenant not to compete for any period of time after the termination of employment with the employer. Provides that an employer may not enforce a covenant not to compete, if at the time the employee left employment, the employee's earnings did not exceed \$15 an hour. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This bill prohibits employers from protecting confidential business information that an employee might take with them when they leave and share with a competitor.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### SB 355 MINIMUM WAGE (Mrvan)

Increases the minimum wage paid to certain employees in Indiana as follows: (1) after June 30,



2020, from \$7.25 an hour to \$10 an hour; (2) after June 30, 2021, from \$10 an hour to \$13 an hour; and (3) after June 30, 2022, from \$13 an hour to \$15 an hour. Provides that after June 30, 2023, and each subsequent June 30, the hourly minimum wage increases at the same percentage as any increase in the Consumer Price Index for the preceding calendar year. Makes technical corrections and corresponding changes. **Position:** **OPPOSE Reason:** A variation of SB 262; see HB 1081. **Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

### SB 357 CANNABIS REGULATION (Tallian)



Establishes a medical marijuana program and permits caregivers and patients who have received a physician recommendation to possess a certain quantity of marijuana for treatment of certain medical conditions. Establishes a regulatory agency to oversee the program, and creates the regulatory agency advisory committee to review the effectiveness of the program and to consider recommendations from the regulatory agency. Authorizes the regulatory agency to grant research licenses to research facilities with a physical presence in Indiana. Repeals the controlled substance excise tax and the marijuana eradication program. Makes conforming amendments. **Position:** **OPPOSE Reason:** See HB 1377. **Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**SB 358 WORKER'S COMPENSATION (Tallian)**  
Increases benefits for injuries and disablements by 10% each year for three years, beginning on July 1, 2019. **Position:** **OPPOSE Reason:** It may be time to consider a worker's comp benefit increase, but a 10% increase per year for the next three years is drastic. The Consumer Price Index for the last 12 months has been around 2.0%. **Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**SB 366 INTERIM COMMITTEE ON TOWNSHIP CONSOLIDATION (Zay)**  
Urges the Legislative Council to assign to an appropriate interim study committee the task of studying the reduction of township government where economic efficiencies can be obtained. Requires the county executive or county executive's designee of each county to make recommendations to the committee regarding reducing township governments and providing township services in their own counties. **Position:** **SUPPORT Reason:** A meaningful study of township functions and the potential for counties to take on township duties and increase efficiencies would provide helpful context to the township debate, especially when counties are tasked with making recommendations. **Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

**SB 384 OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING (Koch)**  
Provides that the small business ombudsman shall review a proposed rule that is an occupational regulation and imposes

requirements or costs on persons subject to the occupational regulation. Requires that an agency file a statement concerning the economic impact of the proposed occupational regulation on persons who are subject to the occupational regulation. Requires the ombudsman to approve or deny the occupational regulation after determining if the least restrictive regulation is used. Requires a regulatory flexibility analysis that considers any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the proposed occupational regulation. **Position:** **SUPPORT Reason:** This bill provides for a common sense approach to the agency rulemaking process, as well as considers the economic impacts of proposed regulations on small business. This bill requires that a review of proposed regulation be conducted to determine if there was a way to make an occupational regulation less costly or intrusive before adopting the rule. **Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

**SB 395 FAIR PAY IN EMPLOYMENT (Stoops)**  
Provides that it is an unlawful employment practice to: (1) pay wages that discriminate on the basis of sex for substantially similar work; (2) provide less favorable employment opportunities to an employee on the basis of sex; (3) take an adverse employment action against an employee or other person because the employee inquired about, disclosed, compared or otherwise discussed the employee's wages; and (4) require an employee to sign a waiver or other document that purports to deny the employee the right to disclose the employee's wage information. Provides that an employer may, under certain circumstances, limit discussion of employee wages. Provides that the Civil Rights Commission has jurisdiction for the investigation and resolution of complaints of these employment actions. **Position:** **OPPOSE Reason:** See HB 1282. **Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**SB 399 EDUCATOR SALARY INCREASE GRANT (Melton)**  
Provides an annual grant to school corporations to provide a 2.5% salary increase to licensed teachers, school counselors, social workers with at least a master's degree and school psychologists. Appropriates \$315 million for the biennium to make grant distributions in both state fiscal years. **Position:** **NEUTRAL Reason:** The Chamber supports efforts to adequately compensate Indiana teachers as key drivers of the state's talent pipeline. However, this proposal is impractical given the state's competing fiscal priorities over the upcoming biennium. Moreover, the Chamber advocates for pay-for-performance compensation systems tied to teacher effectiveness and student achievement rather than across the board, pre-determined salary increases for all educators. **Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

**SB 401 WORKFORCE HOUSING TASK FORCE (Melton)**  
Establishes the Workforce Housing Task Force. Provides that the task force consists of nine voting members appointed by the

Lieutenant Governor and four nonvoting members of the General Assembly. Requires the task force to study and report on the operations of workforce and affordable housing programs in other states. Requires the task force to develop recommendations to increase access to safe and affordable rental housing, create more pathways to home ownership and improve housing stability and opportunity through the study of certain topics. Requires the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority to support the task force. Provides that the task force law expires June 30, 2021. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** A lack of affordable housing options in some regions across Indiana is a limiting factor for employers in attracting and retaining talent. The Chamber supports innovative approaches to addressing this workforce development issue.  
**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

**SB 402 PROHIBITED DISCRIMINATION IN CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES (Lanane)**   
Extends certain antidiscrimination and civil rights statutes to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, veteran status and ancestry. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Indiana Chamber supports adding sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as veteran status, to the state's civil rights statutes while preserving longstanding religious freedoms. This bill will help restore the state's reputation as a welcoming place for all to live, work, worship, attend school, start a business and raise a family. The exemptions and protections in this bill are sufficient.  
**Contact: Kevin Brinegar (317) 264-6882**

**SB 409 FAIR PAY IN EMPLOYMENT (Breaux)**  
Provides that: (1) it is an unlawful employment practice to pay wages that discriminate based on sex, race or national origin for the same or equivalent jobs; and (2) the Civil Rights Commission has jurisdiction for investigation and resolution of complaints of these employment actions. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** See HB 1282.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**SB 414 CONTRACEPTIVE COVERAGE (Breaux)**   
Requires state employee health plans, policies of accident and sickness insurance, and health maintenance organization contracts to provide coverage for contraceptive products and services without cost sharing. Exempts certain policies and contracts sold to certain employers. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber opposes all mandates to small group health plans (about 20% of the market) that drive up health plan costs.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**SB 417 PRE-APPRENTICESHIP GRANT PROGRAM FOR WOMEN (Breaux)**  
Establishes the pre-apprenticeship grant program for women to

provide grants to attract low income women to programs that teach basic technical and job readiness skills for an apprenticeable occupation or occupational sector. Provides that the Department of Workforce Development shall administer the program. Establishes the pre-apprenticeship grant program for women fund. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports pre-apprenticeships as a worthwhile approach to attract and develop young workforce talent in alignment with the needs of industry and Indiana employers. However, limiting access to this pre-apprenticeship program exclusively to women seems counterproductive given the extent of the state's skill/talent shortage.  
**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

**SB 420 TAX CREDIT FOR WORKFORCE EDUCATION CONTRIBUTIONS (Raatz, Kruse)**   
Provides an income tax credit for contributions made to a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization that is certified by the Department of Education and the Department of Workforce Development as an Industry Credentialing Organization (ICO). Provides that the amount of the credit equals 50% of the amount of the contribution made to the ICO. Allows a taxpayer to carry forward any unused credit amounts for nine taxable years following the unused credit year. Provides that the total amount of tax credits awarded in a state fiscal year may not exceed \$14 million. Provides that an organization qualifies as an ICO if the organization: (1) is a tax exempt organization; (2) conducts activities to enhance career and technical education opportunities for students attending a school within the community and aligns those opportunities with local economic and labor needs within the community; ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports tax and related financial incentives that encourage increased investment in postsecondary education and training programs in alignment with the needs of industry and Indiana employers. Given the need to ensure consistency and coordination across the state's K-12, postsecondary and workforce development systems, it would be an oversight not to include the Indiana Commission for Higher Education in the process for the identification and selection of credentials supported by this program.  
**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

**SB 425 MINIMUM AGE TO PURCHASE TOBACCO AND E-LIQUIDS (Head)**   
With certain exceptions, raises from 18 to 21 years the age at which a person may: (1) sell or buy tobacco products or e-liquids and electronic cigarettes containing nicotine; and (2) enter designated smoking areas of a club or cigar specialty store. Allows a person who is at least 18 years of age on June 30, 2019, to continue to hold a valid tobacco retailer permit until it expires. Allows a person who is: (1) at least 18 years of age on June 30, 2019; or (2) at least 18 years of age and serving in the armed forces or reserves or a veteran discharged or separated from service in the armed forces or

reserves under conditions other than dishonorable; to buy tobacco products or e-liquids and electronic cigarettes containing nicotine and enter designated smoking areas of a club or cigar specialty store. Prohibits a person who is less than 18 years of age from buying or possessing e-liquids or electronic cigarettes that do not contain nicotine. Makes changes regarding notices posted at tobacco and electronic cigarette retail establishments and at cigarette vending machines. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber agrees that the minimum age for both tobacco products and e-liquids with nicotine should be age 21 since most tobacco users begin long before age 21. Increasing the legal access age will cut down on the number of smokers, which in the long term will improve Indiana's overall health rankings. The Chamber differs in that there should be no exceptions to age 21. Those serving in the Army now are no longer permitted to smoke when they go in for basic training. **Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### SB 430 ELIMINATION OF NET METERING PHASE OUT (J.D. Ford)

Eliminates the grandfathering provisions under which net metering would be partially ended by 2032 and completely ended by 2047 that were passed as part of SB309 in 2017. Eliminates a limit on the aggregate amount of an electric utility's net metering facility nameplate capacity that can be made available for customers' participation in net metering. Increases the net metering facility nameplate capacity from 1.5% to 3% of the electric utility's most recent summer peak load. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This bill would eliminate some of the energy policy advances achieved by SB 309 in 2017. It would likely shift some residential net-metering costs back onto business ratepayers. When looking at energy costs that have risen over the past decade, the Chamber's goals are to maintain Indiana's competitive edge. **Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

SB 436 NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT (Zay)  
Specifies requirements for participation by the state in a multistate nurse licensure compact, including provisions concerning: (1) nurse qualifications, practice, and participation; (2) a compact commission; (3) interstate commission and state board of nursing authority and rulemaking; (4) a coordinated licensure information system; (5) oversight and enforcement; and (6) termination or withdrawal from the compact. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** See HB 1344. **Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### SB 438 TEACHER LICENSING AND CREDENTIALS (Zay, Raatz)

Amends requirements to be eligible for a career specialist permit. Establishes requirements to be eligible for a workplace specialist license. (The current requirements to be eligible for a workplace specialist license are in rules adopted by the Indiana State Board of Education.) Requires the Department of

Education to enter into the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Interstate Agreement. Requires the Commission for Higher Education to establish a dual credit advisory council (council) to review and update, as needed, the requirements under HEA 1370-2016 (P.L.175-2016) concerning ensuring that a teacher who currently teaches a high school dual credit course on behalf of or under an agreement with a state educational institution can, by July 1, 2022, meet accreditation requirements established by the state educational institution's regional accrediting agency or an association recognized by the United States Department of Education. Requires, not later than November 1, 2019, the council to submit a report to the Legislative Council concerning the council's findings and recommendations. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports efforts to expand the state's capacity to attract and certify qualified personnel who are equipped to deliver relevant career and technical education programming in alignment with the needs of industry and Indiana employers. **Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 460 BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT (Messmer)

Amends the definition of "public utility" to include providers of internet protocol enabled retail services and providers of software, hardware, transmission service or a transmission path for internet protocol enabled retail services, for purposes of numerous provisions throughout the Indiana Code, including ... **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports the provisions of this bill to the extent they will promote a higher level of broadband deployment in underserved portions of the state. The expansion of broadband is critical to long-term economic development but must be done with as little regulation as possible and in a manner that treats all industry players on a level playing field. This bill offers some means for furthering these objectives, but the Chamber believes will ultimately have to be implemented in line with these principles.

**Contacts: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887; Adam Berry (317) 264-6892**

#### SB 461 BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT FUNDING (Messmer)

Provides that a state agency that awards a grant to a broadband service provider for purposes of extending broadband service to unserved areas must follow procedures established and guidelines adopted by the office of community and rural affairs for the award of such grants. Provides that a state agency may not award a grant of more than \$5 million for any one qualified broadband project. Establishes the rural broadband fund for the purpose of awarding grants for funding of deployment of broadband infrastructure in unserved areas. Provides that the Office of Community and Rural Affairs may make grants from the fund for the purpose of awarding grants for funding of deployment of broadband infrastructure in unserved areas. Makes technical corrections. **Position:**

**SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** See. SB 460.  
**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### SB 469 BIAS/HATE CRIMES (Taylor)

Allows an individual who suffers a personal injury or property damage because of a criminal offense or delinquent act to bring a civil action to recover damages, including punitive damages, if the person who committed the criminal offense or delinquent act that caused the injury or property damage selected the individual because of the individual's actual or perceived race, color, creed, disability, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity. Establishes a sentencing procedure that requires a court, when sentencing an individual who has committed a crime that is motivated by a bias against another individual's race, color, creed, disability, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity, to impose an additional fixed term of imprisonment not to exceed five years, if the offense is a felony or three years, if the offense is a misdemeanor. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART/OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports the enactment of a comprehensive bias crimes statute that would remove Indiana from the short list of states that does not have such a law. The Chamber opposes the new right of action contained in this bill.  
**Contact: Kevin Brinegar (317) 264-6882**

#### SB 471 OFFENSES INVOLVING CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE (Koch)

Provides that a person who, not having a contractual interest in the property, knowingly or intentionally enters the real property of a critical infrastructure facility without the permission of the owner of the critical infrastructure facility or an authorized person commits the offense of critical infrastructure facility trespass. Provides that a person who recklessly, knowingly or intentionally damages or defaces property of a critical infrastructure facility commits the offense of critical infrastructure facility mischief. Provides increased criminal penalties and civil remedies for offenses involving a critical infrastructure facility. Defines critical infrastructure to include energy infrastructure, pipelines, water infrastructure, certain business property, as well as protected categories as identified by federal law. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill will provide additional protections not just for utilities but also industry and businesses – like pharmaceutical companies and manufacturers – that use chemicals in their processes. It will help ensure reliable services and reduce costly shutdowns for all involved.  
**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### SB 472 UTILITY RATES AND ACQUISITIONS (Koch)

This bill provides that an order affecting rates of service may be entered by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) without a formal public hearing in the case of any public or municipally owned utility that serves less than 5,000 customers or has initiated a rate case on behalf of a single division of the utility and that division serves less than 5,000

customers and has an IURC-approved schedule of rates and charges that is separate and independent from that of any other division of the utility. (Current law permits the IURC to enter a service rate order without a public hearing only in the case of a public or municipally owned utility that itself serves less than 5,000 customers.) Changes the term “distressed utility” to “offered utility” for purposes of provisions regarding acquisition of water or wastewater utilities. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill will clarify some issues with current law that have recently been litigated. It should reduce litigation costs of water/wastewater utilities going forward that would have been rolled into utility rates as an increase. It will also allow for greater economies of scale in water infrastructure by allowing larger utilities to acquire small water utilities. This is consistent with findings in the Chamber's 2014 water study.  
**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### SB 477 STORM WATER FEE EXEMPTIONS (Sandlin)

This bill provides that the board of a municipal department of storm water management, the board of a county department of storm water management or the board of public works of a consolidated city may not assess or collect user fees for the operation and maintenance of a storm water system with respect to: (1) property where religious services are held regularly; (2) property that belongs to a school corporation and is used for educational purposes; or (3) property that is assessed as agricultural land for property tax purposes. Provides that the drainage board of a county that does not have a department of storm water management may not assess or collect fees for services provided to address issues of storm water quality and quantity with respect to: (1) property where religious services are held regularly; (2) property that belongs to a school corporation and is used for educational purposes; or (3) property that is assessed as agricultural land for property tax purposes. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This bill would shift costs to business property owners and residential property owners.  
**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### SB 500 INCENTIVES FOR AN INCLUSIVE WORKFORCE (Becker, Tomes, Ruckelshaus)

Requires the Indiana Economic Development Corporation to review and evaluate the terms and conditions of job creation incentives to encourage and ensure an inclusive workforce that offers opportunities for people with different skills and abilities. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports the implementation of financial incentives and related approaches that help the state fully activate all potential talent pools in alignment with the needs of industry and Indiana employers.  
**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 507 EDUCATION MATTERS (Raatz)

Requires the State Board of Education to: (1) adopt an early warning system that provides actionable data on students as

early as elementary school; and (2) adopt and provide to schools a graduation pathways tracking and reporting system that provides actionable data on students. Provides that, if the state board enters into an agreement with a third-party vendor to provide the early warning system, the state board shall include in the agreement a requirement that the vendor provide at least quarterly to the state board a statewide summary report concerning certain information. Provides that teacher evaluations must be conducted by a certified evaluator. Establishes requirements for a teacher evaluation model. Requires a school corporation to report certain data from the school corporation's teacher evaluation model. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports the development and deployment of early warning systems that leverage relevant data to ensure students are on track for success and support proactive interventions for students with identified academic deficiencies. Moreover, the Chamber supports robust teacher preparation and evaluation systems that increase transparency and effectiveness of classroom instruction.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 520 COLLEGE GRANT PILOT PROGRAM (Melton)

Establishes the higher education grant pilot program for the purpose of defraying the cost of attending Indiana state postsecondary institutions. Provides that the Commission for Higher Education shall administer the program. Provides that Indiana high school graduates who have resided for at least one year in one of the following counties are eligible for a grant under the pilot program: (1) Allen County. (2) Jackson County. (3) Lake County. (4) Marion County. (5) Vanderburgh County. Provides that an applicant for a grant under the pilot program must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and accept all offered federal scholarships and grants for the academic year. Provides that a grant under the pilot program must be in an amount sufficient to pay the difference between: (1) the amount of other financial aid (not including loans) received by the grant recipient for the academic year; and (2) the amount of the grant recipient's: (A) mandatory tuition and fees; (B) cost of books, supplies, and equipment; and (C) if the grant recipient's household income is less than 250% of the federal income poverty level, cost of room and board; for the academic year. ... **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** While the Chamber supports efforts to increase the state's postsecondary attainment level, the current proposal appears duplicative – and potentially disruptive – of existing state financial aid programs. Moreover, the proposed program is narrowly limited to students from only five counties which raises concerns about creating further inequities in supporting students from other regions of the state to access and complete higher education.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 525 ALTERNATE DIPLOMAS (Houchin)

Provides that an alternate diploma must be considered as an option for a student if all other diploma options have been

determined to be inappropriate for the student. Provides that, if: (1) a student is unable to receive an alternate diploma due to the limitation that not more than 1% of students may receive alternate diplomas; and (2) the student's case conference committee requests a waiver of that limitation; the school in which the student is enrolled shall request that the department grant a waiver to allow the student to receive an alternate diploma. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** While the Chamber supports flexibility in diploma options for Indiana students, the current proposal opens the door to a significant expansion of granting "alternative diplomas" to students with questionable value, unclear criteria and limited oversight for doing so.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 526 USE OF STATE FUNDS FOR BROADBAND PROJECTS (Houchin)

Defines a "qualified broadband project" as a project for the deployment of broadband infrastructure to provide broadband service for connections to the internet at specified speeds, regardless of the delivery technology, in unserved areas in Indiana. Defines an "unserved area" as a geographic area of Indiana in which there is not at least one provider of terrestrial broadband service at the designated speeds. Provides that after June 30, 2019, the following apply with respect to grants made by state agencies (awarding agencies) for broadband infrastructure: (1) An awarding agency may not award a new state broadband grant unless the grant is for a qualified broadband project. (2) An awarding agency may allocate or release state funds for a state broadband grant awarded to a recipient before July 1, 2019, subject to certain conditions. ...

**Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** See SB 460.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### SB 532 TEACHER LICENSING EXAMS (Leising)

Requires, not later than July 1, 2020, the State Board of Education to adopt teacher licensing examinations to replace the teacher licensing examinations administered on July 1, 2019. Requires, not later than July 1, 2021, the Department of Education to implement the adopted teacher licensing examinations. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports efforts to ensure teacher quality through a variety of measures, including effective licensing systems. However, additional investigation regarding the anticipated benefits of replacing the current teacher licensing evaluation system is warranted.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 535 EXTRATERRITORIAL POWERS OF CITIES AND TOWNS (Boots)

Repeals the general authority of a city or town to exercise the following powers outside of its corporate boundaries: (1) Regulating conduct or property use endangering public health, safety, and welfare. (2) Capturing and destroying animals and maintaining and operating animal shelters. (3) Operating recreational parks and exercising eminent domain to acquire

property for park purposes. Provides that a municipality may only exercise eminent domain within the municipality unless a statute expressly provides otherwise. Repeals a provision that allows a municipality to exercise powers regarding watercourses within 10 miles outside its corporate boundaries. Eliminates the ability of a municipal advisory plan commission to exercise planning and zoning jurisdiction, including approval or denial of applications for improvement permits and other permits for property located in the unincorporated area on July 1, 2019. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill will fix past and current problems that Indiana businesses have experienced with municipalities taking action outside of their corporate boundaries to prevent actions allowed under state permits or Indiana law. It prevents municipalities from taking action where there is little recourse for the affected business or individual. A municipality would no longer plan or regulate property within the 10-mile zone (outside its boundaries) and instead the county would have authority. The bill could ease some conflicts between municipalities when the 10-mile boundary overlaps with another municipality's boundary. Finally, it should reduce litigation costs for both businesses and municipalities (which pay with tax dollars).

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### SB 536 INCENTIVES FOR ATTRACTING AND HIRING VETERANS (Boots)

Establishes the regional veterans hiring initiative fund. Provides that the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) shall administer the fund. Allows the IEDC to enter into a regional veterans hiring initiative agreement with: (1) counties, cities, towns, and development authorities; and (2) local employers; in a region to provide marketing and recruiting services to attract eligible veterans for employment in the region and provide financial support to eligible veterans who relocate to the region to accept employment. Defines "eligible veteran" as an individual who: (1) served in the armed forces of the United States or their reserves; and (2) has received an honorable discharge within the last six months. Allows the IEDC to make grants or loans to an eligible veteran for authorized purposes. Requires an eligible veteran to repay the money to the IEDC if the veteran: (1) fails to use the money awarded for authorized purposes; or (2) fails to maintain employment with the local employer for at least 12 months following the veteran's initial hiring date. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports incentives that assist military veterans in securing employment opportunities in alignment with their acquired skills and the needs of industry, employers and the state's workforce development.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 537 VARIOUS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE PROVISIONS (Boots)

Expands the hours that alcoholic beverages may be sold for carryout on Sunday. Allows Daylight Savings Time store and

drug store permittees, in addition to package liquor stores, to sell cold beer. Requires sales clerks in grocery stores and drug stores to have an employee's permit in order to sell alcoholic beverages and must be at least 21 years of age. The bill would make it a Class B misdemeanor for a sales clerk in a grocery or drug store to check out or assist a customer in checking out a sale of alcoholic beverages without having an employee's permit. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART/OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports the provisions that would allow the sales of alcoholic products by licensed retailers during expanded hours on Sunday and eliminating the temperature restriction for retail cold beer sales. We oppose the requirement of the expanded employee permit provision in order to sell alcoholic beverages as it would potentially require a large number of sales clerks to apply for a permit. The increase in age to 21 in order to sell alcoholic beverages in a retail store and the associated criminal penalties would likely reduce the available workforce for retailers.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### SB 541 RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION FROM WORKER'S COMPENSATION (Bassler)

Provides for an exemption from worker's compensation and occupational diseases coverage for a member of certain religious sects or a division of a religious sect who meets certain requirements and obtains a certificate of exemption from the worker's compensation board. Provides that, if an employee for whom a certificate is issued no longer meets the requirements for a certificate, the employee and the employee's employer are required to notify the board in writing. Requires the employer to provide worker's compensation and occupational diseases coverage for that employee beginning on the date of the notice.

**Position: OPPOSE Reason:** While the Indiana Chamber understands the intent behind this legislation, there are concerns about the potential outcome of injured workers and the potential liability exposure that an employer might incur if it hires a crew that carries no worker's compensation insurance.

**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

#### SB 542 PETITION FOR CHANGING TIME ZONES (Bassler)



Requires the Governor to petition the United States Department of Transportation to initiate proceedings under the Uniform Time Act of 1966 to locate all of Indiana in the Central time zone. Requires the Governor's petition to request that the change of Indiana's time zone becomes effective on the date that daylight saving time begins in Indiana in 2021. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber strongly opposes this bill. Overwhelmingly, the businesses that are in the Eastern time zone want to remain there and the businesses in the Central time zone want to remain there. When Indiana did not observe Daylight Savings Time, there were 10 counties around Cincinnati and Louisville that openly violated the law and observed Eastern DST because they determined that they were economically connected to the adjacent cities across the border. So the reality is that

Indiana counties will never all observe the same time.

**Contact: Kevin Brinegar (317) 264-6882**

#### SB 543 MARION COUNTY SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AREA (Sandlin)

Establishes an additional professional sports development area in Marion County to capture state and local revenue for capital improvements. Provides for the issuance of indebtedness to finance a multipurpose soccer stadium. **Position: SUPPORT**

**Reason:** The Chamber supports efforts to enhance the downtown sports facilities in Indianapolis and secure the Indiana Pacers' presence in Indiana for many years to come.

**Contact: Kevin Brinegar (317) 264-6882**

#### SB 544 FINANCIAL AID FOR MILITARY RESERVISTS (Spartz)

Provides that a student may apply to participate in the 21st Century Scholars program before or during enrollment in grade 12 without meeting family income requirements if the student agrees to enlist in a reserve component of the armed services. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This proposal runs counter to the design/intent of the 21st Century Scholars program as an early preparation promise program for low-income students. Moreover, there are other generous financial aid options for students who choose military service.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 546 EDUCATION TASK FORCE (Spartz)

Establishes the Education Task Force to make recommendations concerning education to the Governor, superintendent of public instruction, General Assembly, Indiana State Board of Education and the Commission for Higher Education. Requires the Academic Standards Committee to submit to the education task force recommendations regarding academic standards for a subject area. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** This proposal seems well-intentioned in terms of promoting greater coordination and alignment across the state's K-12 and higher education systems. However, this bill is duplicative with a more worthwhile proposal under consideration this session that would re-establish Indiana's Education Roundtable.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 554 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Garten)

Provides that the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) may renew an enterprise zone that is established in an inactive or closed military base for not more than 20 years subject to certain criteria. Provides that a reuse authority, following the expiration of an enterprise zone over which the reuse authority had jurisdiction, may, subject to the approval of the IEDC, certify a business that is located within the boundaries of the enterprise zone for a tax credit, deduction or exemption that could have been available to the business had the enterprise zone not expired. Provides that a business that is certified by a reuse authority to receive a tax credit, deduction

or exemption must assist the reuse authority in an amount determined by the reuse authority. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill would help facilitate the redevelopment of military property.

**Contact: Adam Berry (317) 264-6892**

#### SB 563 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Holdman)



Establishes the small business innovation voucher program to provide vouchers to eligible small businesses to be used by the business to purchase research and development support or other forms of technical assistance and services from an Indiana institution of higher education or other authorized research provider. Provides that the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) shall administer the program. Provides that the program is subject to appropriation from the General Assembly. Amends the definition of "sales" and adds a definition of "telecommunication services" and "broadcast services" under the state adjusted gross income tax provisions. Amends the provisions for determining when sales, other than sales of tangible personal property, are derived from sources within Indiana for purposes of determining the state adjusted gross income of corporations and nonresident persons. Authorizes the Indiana Department of Revenue to adopt rules that apply retroactively to January 1, 2019, to specify where sales, receipts, income, transactions or costs are attributable.

Provides that a taxpayer (with certain exceptions) is not entitled to receive an industrial recovery tax credit for a qualified investment made after December 31, 2019. Allows a taxpayer to assign all or part of a venture capital investment tax credit, subject to certain limitations. Amends the definition of "qualified investment" under the Hoosier business investment tax credit to include the purchase of retooled or refurbished machinery and certain energy conservation and pollution control equipment. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber supports the entirety of this bill. It makes a number of changes and its provisions are structured to collectively function to promote economic development through sound tax policy. Probably most noteworthy are the changes regarding the venture capital investment tax credit (VCI). This bill makes the credit transferable, a crucial step in attracting more capital investment from outside Indiana. Indiana greatly underperforms in attracting capital investment from outside the state due to the non-transferability of the credit. The bill also changes the method used for determining the taxable income associated with the sale of non-tangible services so that it will be based on where the purchaser of the service is located rather than where the service is generated. This change will, generally speaking, collect more tax from companies that are based outside of Indiana and less from Indiana-based companies. Several additional changes are designed to fine-tune incentives to maximize their economic benefit.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### SB 565 DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE (Holdman)

Provides that the Department of Revenue may deny an application for a registered retail merchant's certificate in certain circumstances. Specifies the requirements necessary for a taxpayer to discontinue filing a combined income tax return. Requires a partnership or an estate or trust to file certain information returns electronically. Amends motor carrier fuel tax provisions retroactively to July 1, 2018, to specify the rates that apply to the imposition of the tax. Specifies that books and records that a taxpayer is required to keep must be maintained contemporaneously and be of the type that are kept in the ordinary course of business. . . . **Position: SUPPORT IN PART/OPPOSE IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports the general effort and objective of the Department of Revenue to improve its ability to serve taxpayers by seeking adjustments to the statutes that govern its administrative operations. However, in doing so, the proposed changes can potentially infringe on taxpayer rights. The Chamber opposes provisions in the introduced bill regarding recordkeeping that would unnecessarily make it more difficult for taxpayers to defend their position in a tax dispute.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### SB 566 RESIDENTIAL TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (Raatz)

Permits redevelopment commissions in counties having a population of not more than 100,000 to establish a program for residential housing development and a tax increment funding allocation area for that program. Defines "residential housing" as housing that consists of single-family dwelling units. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Housing needs have impeded economic development in many areas. This bill would provide an ability to assist in needed residential development to accommodate potential employees for employers considering local investment.

**Contacts: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887;  
Adam Berry (317) 264-6892**

#### SB 567 VIRTUAL EDUCATION (Raatz)

Provides that the State Board of Education may adopt rules regarding virtual education programs of school corporations. Requires the following: (1) A school corporation to establish and implement an onboarding process and orientation for participating students of virtual education programs. (2) A virtual charter school to establish and implement an onboarding process and orientation for students of the virtual charter school. Requires students of virtual education programs and students enrolled in virtual charter schools to participate in the respective onboarding processes and orientations. Provides that, if the lesser of at least: (1) 100 students of a school corporation; or (2) 25% of the total number of students enrolled in the school corporation; receive at least 50% of instruction through a school corporation's virtual education program, the school corporation shall establish a dedicated virtual education school. . . . **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Indiana Chamber has a longstanding

position in favor of promoting school choice options for Hoosier families. However, given that students enrolled in virtual schools tend to underperform their peers in traditional bricks-and-mortar and blended-learning schools, it seems prudent to establish reasonable safeguards that ensure students who choose to attend virtual schools adequately understand and are equipped to succeed in these unique learning environments.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 591 CHARTER SCHOOLS (Stoops)

Provides that certain charter school authorizers that issued a charter for a charter school before July 1, 2015, are required to be approved for chartering authority by the State Board of Education before the authorizers may authorize a new charter or renew an existing charter for a charter school. Provides that an authorizer may not accept a proposal to establish a charter school from an organizer that already operates a charter school if a charter school that the organizer operates does not meet certain thresholds regarding its school accountability grade. Provides that a charter school may not enroll new students who are not currently enrolled in the charter school if the charter school does not meet certain thresholds regarding its school accountability grade. Provides that an administrative fee for certain authorizers is dependent upon the category or designation that the charter school receives regarding its school accountability grade. Requires the Department of Education to provide staff to carry out the duties of the Indiana Charter School Board. Repeals a provision that provides that funding for the charter board consists of administrative fees. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This proposal undermines/eliminates the authority of the state's charter school board and is overly prescriptive in directing the role/function of the entity charged with overseeing charter authorizers.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 592 EXCESS LIABILITY TRUST FUND CLAIMS (Glick)

Provides that, if certain conditions are met, a person who was not an owner or operator of an underground storage tank (UST) at the time of a release from the UST may assume liability for corrective action in response to the release from the UST and may receive reimbursement from the underground petroleum storage tank Excess Liability Trust Fund (ELTF). Provides that the administrator of the ELTF: (1) may audit any claim against the ELTF to protect against fraud, waste, and abuse; and (2) may pay from the ELTF, in connection with one eligible release from a UST, not more than \$1,500,000 for corrective action and not more than \$1,000,000 for third party indemnification claims. . . . **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Indiana Chamber has historically supported the protection of the ELTF and the promotion of the use of the fund to assist in the cleanup of the many USTs around the state. The changes to the existing statute will protect against waste, fraud and abuse while allowing third parties to assume responsibility for cleanup of the USTs. This will control costs and ensure the continued viability of the

ELTF. In 2018, the average cost per cleanup (submitted to the fund) was 300% above the national average; we also had the highest average payout costs nationwide for state fund reimbursement. The Chamber supports the protection of the fund for all those who have paid into it.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### SB 593 REGULATION OF CONFINED FEEDING OPERATIONS (Stoops)

This bill amends the law on confined feeding operations (CFOs, which include any confined feeding of at least 300 cattle, 600 swine or sheep, 30,000 fowl or 500 horses). The bill provides that a person who owns a CFO, owns the livestock in a CFO, applies for a permit, permit renewal or permit modification for a CFO or is otherwise in direct or responsible charge of a CFO is a “responsible party” with respect to the CFO. The bill provides that a person may not start construction or operation of a CFO without obtaining a permit from the Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and may not modify a CFO without obtaining a permit modification from IDEM. The bill requires the Environmental Rules Board to adopt rules establishing new requirements ... **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** Confined feeding operations are a critical component of our strong agricultural industry. There are adequate rules and regulations in place to control Indiana’s CFO operations. What’s more, new regulations would likely increase costs for CFO operations.

**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

#### SB 599 BIAS/HATE CRIMES (Young)

Enhances the sentence for a crime committed: (1) due to a real or perceived immutable characteristic or religious belief of the victim; and (2) with intent to cause bodily injury or to cause the victim to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated or threatened. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** The Chamber acknowledges and appreciates the intent of the author with respect to bringing forth a bias/hate crimes bill that is intended to be comprehensive and will remove Indiana from the short list states that do not have one. The Chamber prefers that the General Assembly enact legislation that contains a specific list of protected categories of individuals or groups such as those contained in HB 1020 or SB 12.

**Contact: Kevin Brinegar (317) 264-6882**

#### SB 601 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT (Mishler)

Establishes the regional development tax credit. Allows a taxpayer to apply to the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) for the credit. Provides that a taxpayer is entitled to a credit against state tax liability if: (1) the taxpayer makes a qualified investment for the redevelopment or rehabilitation of real property that is vacant or underused; (2) the qualified investment is part of a project that is located within the area of a regional development authority and is included in the regional development authority’s regional redevelopment plan; and (3) the qualified investment is approved by the IEDC.

Specifies the factors that the IEDC shall consider in evaluating a taxpayer’s application for a proposed qualified investment.

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** See HB 1194.

**Contact: Adam Berry (317) 264-6892**

#### SB 606 TEACHER SALARIES (Raatz)

Removes a provision that provides that a combination of certain factors may account for not more than 33.33% of the calculation used to determine an increase or increment in teacher salaries.

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The 33.3% rule appears to be an arbitrary and antiquated limitation to establishing a more effective teacher compensation system in Indiana.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 607 WORKFORCE DIPLOMA REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM (Raatz)

Establishes the: (1) workforce diploma reimbursement program; and (2) workforce diploma reimbursement program fund. Provides that the Governor’s Workforce Cabinet, in coordination with the Department of Workforce Development, shall administer the program. Provides that the purpose of the workforce diploma reimbursement program fund is to provide payments to eligible program providers that assist adults who are more than 22 years of age in: (1) developing employability and career technical skills; and (2) obtaining high school diplomas. Provides that: (1) the cabinet shall approve eligible program providers to participate in the program; and (2) the department shall publish a list of approved eligible program providers on the department’s internet web site. ... **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Indiana Chamber supports efforts to ensure the effectiveness of adult education program providers in promoting career readiness in alignment with employer/industry expectations.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### SB 617 BROADBAND ACCESS GRANTS (Buchanan)



Provides that the Office of Community and Rural Affairs may award a grant from the rural economic development fund to an internet service provider (ISP) that provides internet service with a transmission speed of: (1) not less than three megabits per second upstream; and (2) not less than 25 megabits per second downstream; in an unserved area. Provides that the amount of the grant is equal to \$750 for each customer in an unserved area who subscribes to the ISP’s broadband internet service for one year under subscription terms established by the office, subject to reporting and verification rules developed by the office and approved by the state director of broadband opportunities.

**Position: SUPPORT IN PART Reason:** See SB 460.

**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

#### SB 619 PRODUCER RECYCLING OF WASTE PACKAGING AND PAPER (Stoops)



This bill requires every producer of a product or material that

results in waste packaging or waste printed paper to register with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and to submit to IDEM for approval a producer recycling program plan under which the producer or group of producers will provide for or finance the recycling of packaging and printed paper. It provides that a proposed producer recycling program plan must include a description of the methods by which packaging and printed paper will be collected from households in a convenient manner in all parts of Indiana and recycled, an explanation of how the plan will be financed, plus other contents. ... **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** Although the Chamber supports recycling programs, this bill would impose burdensome planning and record-keeping requirements on businesses. What's more, it would increase business costs and likely make it a felony for non-compliance.  
**Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881**

**SB 623 PROPERTY TAX MATTERS (Buchanan)**  
Provides that a county assessor or township assessor (if any) may request the Department of Local Government Finance to perform a state conducted assessment of a particular commercial building or structure used for retail purposes. Specifies the procedures for the state conducted assessment. Requires assessing officials to apply a cost approach to assessments of commercial real property used for retail purposes if the property is occupied by the original owner or by a tenant for which the improvement was built. Provides that, when using a sales comparison approach in assessments of a commercial building or structure used for retail purposes, assessing officials may not use second generation property as a comparable sale property for purposes of a sales comparison analysis of a first generation property or in establishing obsolescence. Defines "first-generation property" as a building or structure designed to be functionally and economically efficient for use for retail purposes by the original tenant or a similar class of tenants, over a period of time during which the building or structure retains its original utility and desirability. ... **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The provisions of this bill undermine the constitutional principles of equal and uniform property tax assessment based on the value of the subject property as determined under generally accepted appraisal practices.  
**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

**SB 624 INCOME TAX DEDUCTIONS (Buchanan)**  
Eliminates, for property placed in service by a taxpayer after December 31, 2018: (1) the bonus depreciation add back of the amount that is allowed for federal income tax purposes; and (2) the Section 179 expense add back of the amount that is allowed for federal income tax purposes in excess of \$25,000 per year. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber generally supports the elimination of add-backs and conformance to the federal code so long as it is consistent with sound tax and fiscal policy, and will effectively incentivize

capital investment by businesses.  
**Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887**

**SB 628 THC ANALYSIS OF CBD PRODUCTS (Brown)**  
Requires a person who distributes low THC hemp extract to provide a copy of the certificate of analysis to each retailer in Indiana that purchases the extract. Requires a person who sells low THC hemp extract to display the certificate of analysis for each low THC hemp extract product. Provides that a violation of these requirements is a Class B infraction or a Class A infraction if there is a prior unrelated judgment. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Currently there is no regulation of this industry in Indiana. This bill seems to be a reasonable attempt to disclose the level of THC (not more than .3%) to the consumer.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**SB 629 CAUSE OF ACTION FOR EMPLOYER RETALIATION (Busch)**  
Establishes a cause of action for an employee who is affected by an employer's action in retaliation for the employee making a report of child abuse or neglect in good faith. Provides that a prevailing plaintiff may be awarded reasonable attorney's fees. Specifies that the statute of limitations for the cause of action based on such a retaliatory adverse employment action is three years from the date of the adverse employment action. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber opposes any right of action of an employee against an employer regardless of how warranted the issue might appear.  
**Contact: Mike Ripley (317) 264-6883**

**SB 638 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING MATTERS (Melton)**  
Provides that increases or increments in a local teacher salary range are not required to be equal for all teachers even if the salary increases or increments are based on the same combination of weighted factors. Provides that teacher working hours are subject to collective bargaining. Provides that an employer is required to discuss: (1) working conditions; and (2) student learning; with the exclusive representative of certificated employees. Removes teacher evaluations from the list of items that are required to be considered to determine teacher salary increases or increments. Makes changes to the term "deficit financing" for purposes of determining the amount of money that is available for teacher contracts. Provides that ILEARN program test scores from the ILEARN program tests taken in the spring of 2019 or 2020 may not be used by a school corporation as part of an annual performance evaluation of a particular certificated employee. Resolves conflict between P.L.213-2018(ss), SECTION 24 and P.L.213-2018(ss), SECTION 25. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** This proposal runs counter to the Chamber's position in favor of pay-for-performance teacher compensation that is based, at least in part, on objective

measures of student academic achievement.

**Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880**

#### SJR 9 BALLOT AND INITIATIVE REFERENDUM (Stoops)

Provides that the people of Indiana may propose and adopt amendments to the Constitution of the State of Indiana and propose and enact statutes independent of the General Assembly through initiative. Provides that the people of Indiana may approve or reject through referendum any statute or part of any statute enacted by the General Assembly. **Position:**

**OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber is strongly opposed to this proposed Constitutional amendment. This amendment would undermine our representative form of government in Indiana and lead to chaos with regard to legislating.

**Contact: Kevin Brinegar (317) 264-6882**



No. 1 • February 1, 2019

# Legislative Agenda



## Quick Reference: Position by Bill Number and Title

\*\*\* = Chamber Priority Bill OIP=Oppose in Part • NIP=Neutral in Part • SIP=Support in Part

### HOUSE

HB 1001 BIENNIAL BUDGET – **SIP**

\*\*\* HB 1002 CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MATTERS – **SIP**

HB 1003 SCHOOL CORPORATION EXPENDITURE TARGETS – **SUPPORT**

\*\*\* HB 1005 STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION – **SUPPORT**

HB 1008 TEACHER CAREER LADDERS – **SUPPORT**

HB 1009 TEACHER RESIDENCY GRANT PILOT PROGRAM – **SUPPORT**

HB 1012 PRODUCT LIABILITY ACTIONS – **SUPPORT**

HB 1016 BATTERY ON A UTILITY WORKER – **SUPPORT**

\*\*\* HB 1020 BIAS/HATE CRIMES – **SUPPORT**

HB 1027 WIND FARM CONFLICTS OF INTEREST – **OIP**

HB 1031 CERTIFICATE OF EMPLOYABILITY – **SUPPORT**

\*\*\* HB 1042 TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES AND BOARD MEMBERS – **SUPPORT**

HB 1061 ATTORNEY'S FEES – **SUPPORT**

HB 1062 UNEMPLOYMENT MATTERS – **SIP**

HB 1073 PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH DISCRIMINATION – **OPPOSE**

HB 1081 MINIMUM WAGE – **OPPOSE**

HB 1082 CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT – **OPPOSE**

HB 1088 SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR DATA WAREHOUSE EQUIPMENT – **SUPPORT**

\*\*\* HB 1093 BIAS/HATE CRIMES – **SIP**

HB 1112 VOCATIONAL EDUCATION – **SIP**

HB 1119 PEER-TO-PEER CAR RENTALS – **SUPPORT**

HB 1120 COUNTY OPTION PROPERTY TAX REPLACEMENT FEE – **SUPPORT**

HB 1123 TELEPHONE SOLICITATION – **OPPOSE**

HB 1130 OUT-OF-STATE DRUG PRESCRIPTIONS – **OPPOSE**

HB 1134 BAN ON FLAME-RETARDANT MATERIAL – **OPPOSE**

HB 1145 LIVING WAGE – **OPPOSE**

HB 1147 ELIMINATION OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – **NEUTRAL**

\*\*\* HB 1159 BIAS/HATE CRIMES – **SUPPORT**

HB 1172 VIRTUAL EDUCATION – **SUPPORT**

HB 1179 PRIOR AUTHORIZATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS – **OPPOSE**

HB 1180 PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS – **OPPOSE**

\*\*\* HB 1181 ASBESTOS LITIGATION – **SUPPORT**

HB 1182 WORKER'S COMPENSATION – **SUPPORT**

HB 1194 TAX CREDITS – **SUPPORT**

HB 1202 RIGHT TO WORK – **OPPOSE**

\*\*\* HB 1203 BIAS/HATE CRIMES – **SUPPORT**

HB 1204 SCHOOL START TIMES – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1205 TEACHER SALARIES – **OIP**  
HB 1215 SMALL SCHOOL GRANTS – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1227 ESTABLISHING A NEW TOWNSHIP – **SIP/OIP**  
HB 1230 REPEAL OF STATUTES PRE-EMPTING LOCAL ACTION – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1233 LEGISLATION SESSIONS – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1240 PROPERTY TAX RELIEF – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1244 WORKFORCE DIPLOMA REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM – **SIP**  
HB 1254 EDUCATION MATTERS – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1260 LOCAL REFERENDA FOR WIND POWER DEVICES – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1266 SEDIMENT AND EROSION CONTROL IN CONSTRUCTION – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1267 TAX CREDIT FOR EMPLOYING GUARD AND RESERVE MEMBERS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1274 TEACHER LICENSURE – **SIP**  
HB 1278 VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1279 CONSERVANCY DISTRICT PETITION – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1281 PAY DATA REPORTING – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1282 PAY EQUITY – **OPPOSE**  
\*\*\* HB 1283 MARIJUANA – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1288 CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1307 HEALTH CARE COST SHARING – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1310 STUDY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY TAXES – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1316 PERSONAL LEAVE – **OPPOSE**  
\*\*\* HB 1320 BIAS/HATE CRIMES – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1337 RELIGIOUS MOTIVATED CRIMES – **SIP**  
HB 1344 NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1352 SALES TAX ADMINISTRATION – **SIP**  
HB 1355 SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1361 TAX INCENTIVES FOR PUBLIC SAFETY VOLUNTEERS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1362 PEER TO PEER VEHICLE SHARING – **SIP**  
HB 1363 WAGERING ON SPORTS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1366 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM – **OIP**  
\*\*\* HB 1371 BIAS/HATE CRIMES – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1372 INSPECTIONS OF RENTAL PROPERTIES – **OPPOSE**  
\*\*\* HB 1377 MEDICAL CANNABIS – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1378 REGULATION OF CONFINED FEEDING OPERATIONS – **OPPOSE**  
\*\*\* HB 1384 MEDICAL MARIJUANA – **OPPOSE**  
\*\*\* HB 1387 MEDICAL MARIJUANA – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1389 ANNEXATION WAIVERS AND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS – **SIP**  
HB 1396 TEACHER SALARIES – **SIP**  
HB 1399 ADDITIONAL SERVICE CREDIT FOR TEACHER MENTORING – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1400 EDUCATION MANDATES – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1404 SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY – **SIP**  
HB 1405 TAXATION OF DATA CENTERS – **SUPPORT**  
\*\*\* HB 1406 WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ASSISTANCE FUND AND PROGRAM – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1408 MANDATORY KINDERGARTEN – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1423 INDIANA EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE – **SIP**  
HB 1425 SCHOOL EQUITY GRANTS – **OPPOSE**

HB 1427 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE – **SIP**  
\*\*\* HB 1431 CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION – **SUPPORT**  
\*\*\* HB 1438 WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1441 EMERGENCY CARE REIMBURSEMENT – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1444 TAXATION OF E-LIQUIDS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1450 GRANT PROGRAM FOR HIRING EX-OFFENDERS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1459 COVERAGE OF CLEFT LIP AND CLEFT PALATE MANAGEMENT – **OPPOSE**  
\*\*\* HB 1460 MARIJUANA – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1467 INCENTIVES FOR VETERANS TO RELOCATE TO INDIANA – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1470 UTILITY TRANSMISSION IMPROVEMENTS AND COSTS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1476 POST GRADUATION OUTCOME FUNDING METRICS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1494 HEALTH COVERAGE – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1503 LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR DISTRESSED SCHOOLS – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1505 HEALTH CARE SERVICE COST – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1514 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FEES – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1519 CAPTURE OF SALES TAX ON WATER – **SIP/OIP**  
HB 1524 PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT APPEALS – **SIP**  
HB 1531 LOCAL REGULATION OF NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT – **SUPPORT**  
\*\*\* HB 1535 MEDICAL CANNABIS PILOT PROGRAM – **OPPOSE**  
\*\*\* HB 1540 DECRIMINALIZATION OF MARIJUANA – **OPPOSE**  
\*\*\* HB 1551 TOBACCO ISSUES – **SIP**  
\*\*\* HB 1565 CIGARETTE TAXES – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1568 BAN ON SINGLE USE PLASTIC ITEMS IN RESTAURANTS – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1571 TAX CREDIT FOR EMPLOYER PROVIDED DISABILITY PLAN – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1580 COVERAGE FOR ECTODERMAL DYSPLASIA TREATMENT – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1592 REGULATED DRAINS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1606 E-LIQUIDS TAXES – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1608 OVERTIME COMPENSATION FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1609 WORK SHARING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1624 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – **SUPPORT**  
\*\*\* HB 1628 PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS – **SUPPORT**  
\*\*\* HB 1629 VARIOUS EDUCATION MATTERS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1642 NEXT GENERATION HOOSIER EDUCATORS SCHOLARSHIP – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1648 CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY TRAINING – **OPPOSE**  
\*\*\* HB 1650 ELIMINATION OF TOWNSHIP BOARDS – **SUPPORT**  
HB 1653 ESSENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1655 PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS AND ESSENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS – **OPPOSE**  
\*\*\* HB 1658 DECRIMINALIZATION OF MARIJUANA – **OPPOSE**  
\*\*\* HB 1666 VENTURE CAPITAL TAX CREDITS – **SIP**  
\*\*\* HB 1670 TRANSPORTATION FINANCE – **OPPOSE**  
HB 1678 HIGH SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY – **OPPOSE**

# Quick Reference: Position by Bill Number and Title

\*\*\* = Chamber Priority Bill   OIP=Oppose in Part • NIP=Neutral in Part • SIP=Support in Part

## SENATE

- \*\*\* SB 4 WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITIES AND RUNOFF – **SUPPORT**
- SB 6 DROPOUT RECOVERY PROGRAMS – **SUPPORT**
- SB 7 MARION COUNTY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD – **SUPPORT**
- SB 9 WORKER CAREER ENHANCEMENT TAX CREDIT – **SIP**
- \*\*\* SB 12 BIAS/HATE CRIMES – **SUPPORT**
- SB 25 USE OF CONSUMER REPORTS FOR EMPLOYMENT PURPOSES – **OPPOSE**
- SB 26 MEDICAL MALPRACTICE ACTIONS – **OPPOSE**
- SB 82 EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS – **OPPOSE**
- SB 94 ANNEXATION – **SIP**
- SB 99 WAGE ASSIGNMENTS FOR CLOTHING AND TOOLS – **SUPPORT**
- SB 108 COVERAGE FOR PHARMACIST CARE – **OPPOSE**
- SB 117 WAIVER TRAINING REIMBURSEMENT PILOT PROGRAM – **SUPPORT**
- SB 124 EMPLOYERS AND EXPUNGEMENT – **OPPOSE**
- SB 128 SCHOOL CALENDAR – **OPPOSE**
- SB 131 SALES TAX ON RECREATIONAL VEHICLES – **SUPPORT**
- SB 137 BAN ON SALE OR USE OF COAL TAR PAVEMENT PRODUCTS – **OPPOSE**
- SB 143 SALES TAX DISTRICT FOR HEALTHY FOOD PROGRAMS – **SIP/OIP**
- SB 146 PRESCRIBING OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE – **SUPPORT**
- SB 162 CHRONIC PAIN MANAGEMENT – **OPPOSE**
- SB 183 VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOLS – **OPPOSE**
- SB 188 NURSING FACULTY LOAN REPAYMENT GRANT PROGRAM – **SUPPORT**
- SB 193 SEWER AND WATER CONNECTIONS THROUGH RIGHTS-OF-WAY – **SIP/OIP**
- SB 204 HEALTH STATUS RELATED REQUIREMENTS – **OPPOSE**
- SB 211 CANNABIS COMPLIANCE COMMISSION – **SIP**
- \*\*\* SB 213 POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA – **OPPOSE**
- SB 214 MINIMUM WAGE – **OPPOSE**
- SB 227 PEER-TO-PEER CAR RENTALS – **SIP**
- \*\*\* SB 233 BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION – **SUPPORT**
- SB 242 TELEMEDICINE AND MEDICAL DEVICES – **SUPPORT**
- SB 247 ANNUAL INSPECTIONS OF CAFOS – **OPPOSE**
- SB 248 DISTRIBUTIONS OF PUBLIC SAFETY INCOME TAX REVENUE – **SUPPORT**
- SB 250 TEACHER EVALUATIONS – **OPPOSE**
- SB 257 USE OF CREDIT INFORMATION IN INSURANCE – **OPPOSE**
- SB 259 WAGE DISCRIMINATION – **OPPOSE**
- SB 262 MINIMUM WAGE – **OPPOSE**
- SB 270 RECUSAL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS – **SUPPORT**
- \*\*\* SB 275 SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION – **SUPPORT**
- SB 277 TEACHER LEADERS – **SUPPORT**
- SB 290 PREVAILING WAGE – **OPPOSE**
- SB 294 LOCAL AIR POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY CONTRACTS – **OPPOSE**
- SB 304 INTIMIDATION AGAINST UTILITY WORKERS – **SUPPORT**
- SB 313 PUBLICATION OF TOWNSHIP ABSTRACT – **OPPOSE**
- SB 316 ELIMINATION OF ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS OF ASSESSED VALUES – **OPPOSE**

SB 317 CUSTODY OF DOCUMENTS UNDER AUDIT – **OPPOSE**  
SB 318 AGE FOR COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE – **SUPPORT**  
SB 322 SALES TAX ADMINISTRATION – **SUPPORT**  
SB 339 ELIGIBILITY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AWARDS – **SUPPORT**  
SB 342 EMPLOYMENT OF MINORS – **SIP**  
\*\*\* SB 346 PRE-KINDERGARTEN PILOT PROGRAM – **SUPPORT**  
SB 348 COVENANTS NOT TO COMPETE – **OPPOSE**  
SB 355 MINIMUM WAGE – **OPPOSE**  
\*\*\* SB 357 CANNABIS REGULATION – **OPPOSE**  
SB 358 WORKER'S COMPENSATION – **OPPOSE**  
SB 366 INTERIM COMMITTEE ON TOWNSHIP CONSOLIDATION – **SUPPORT**  
SB 384 OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING – **SUPPORT**  
SB 395 FAIR PAY IN EMPLOYMENT – **OPPOSE**  
SB 399 EDUCATOR SALARY INCREASE GRANT – **NEUTRAL**  
SB 401 WORKFORCE HOUSING TASK FORCE – **SUPPORT**  
\*\*\* SB 402 PROHIBITED DISCRIMINATION IN CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES – **SUPPORT**  
SB 409 FAIR PAY IN EMPLOYMENT – **OPPOSE**  
SB 414 CONTRACEPTIVE COVERAGE – **OPPOSE**  
SB 417 PRE-APPRENTICESHIP GRANT PROGRAM FOR WOMEN – **SIP**  
\*\*\* SB 420 TAX CREDIT FOR WORKFORCE EDUCATION CONTRIBUTIONS – **SUPPORT**  
\*\*\* SB 425 MINIMUM AGE TO PURCHASE TOBACCO AND E-LIQUIDS – **SIP**  
SB 430 ELIMINATION OF NET METERING PHASE OUT – **OPPOSE**  
SB 436 NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT – **SUPPORT**  
SB 438 TEACHER LICENSING AND CREDENTIALS – **SUPPORT**  
SB 460 BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT – **SIP**  
SB 461 BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT FUNDING– **SIP**  
SB 469 BIAS/HATE CRIMES – **SIP/OIP**  
SB 471 OFFENSES INVOLVING CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE – **SUPPORT**  
SB 472 UTILITY RATES AND ACQUISITIONS – **SUPPORT**  
SB 477 STORM WATER FEE EXEMPTIONS – **OPPOSE**  
SB 500 INCENTIVES FOR AN INCLUSIVE WORKFORCE – **SUPPORT**  
SB 507 EDUCATION MATTERS – **SUPPORT**  
SB 520 COLLEGE GRANT PILOT PROGRAM – **OPPOSE**  
SB 525 ALTERNATE DIPLOMAS – **OPPOSE**  
SB 526 USE OF STATE FUNDS FOR BROADBAND PROJECTS – **SIP**  
SB 532 TEACHER LICENSING EXAMINATIONS – **SIP**  
SB 535 EXTRATERRITORIAL POWERS OF CITIES AND TOWNS – **SUPPORT**  
SB 536 INCENTIVES FOR ATTRACTING AND HIRING VETERANS – **SUPPORT**  
SB 537 VARIOUS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE PROVISIONS – **SIP/OIP**  
SB 541 RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION FROM WORKER'S COMPENSATION – **OPPOSE**  
\*\*\* SB 542 PETITION FOR CHANGING TIME ZONES – **OPPOSE**  
SB 543 MARION COUNTY SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AREA – **SUPPORT**  
SB 544 FINANCIAL AID FOR MILITARY RESERVISTS – **OPPOSE**  
SB 546 EDUCATION TASK FORCE – **SIP**  
SB 554 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – **SUPPORT**  
\*\*\* SB 563 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – **SUPPORT**  
SB 565 DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE – **SIP/OIP**

SB 566 RESIDENTIAL TAX INCREMENT FINANCING – **SUPPORT**  
SB 567 VIRTUAL EDUCATION – **SUPPORT**  
SB 591 CHARTER SCHOOLS – **OPPOSE**  
SB 592 EXCESS LIABILITY TRUST FUND CLAIMS – **SUPPORT**  
SB 593 REGULATION OF CONFINED FEEDING OPERATIONS – **OPPOSE**  
SB 599 BIAS/HATE CRIMES – **SIP**  
SB 601 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT – **SUPPORT**  
SB 606 TEACHER SALARIES – **SUPPORT**  
SB 607 WORKFORCE DIPLOMA REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM – **SUPPORT**  
\*\*\* SB 617 BROADBAND ACCESS GRANTS – **SIP**  
SB 619 PRODUCER RECYCLING OF WASTE PACKAGING AND PAPER – **OPPOSE**  
SB 623 PROPERTY TAX MATTERS – **OPPOSE**  
SB 624 INCOME TAX DEDUCTIONS – **SUPPORT**  
SB 628 THC ANALYSIS OF CBD PRODUCTS – **SUPPORT**  
SB 629 CAUSE OF ACTION FOR EMPLOYER RETALIATION – **OPPOSE**  
SB 638 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING MATTERS – **OPPOSE**  
SJR 9 BALLOT AND INITIATIVE REFERENDUM – **OPPOSE**