Legislative Agenda

Chamber Outlines Bill Positions
By Kevin Brinegar, president and CEO, Indiana Chamber of Commerce

This second edition of the Indiana Chamber’s 2022 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 2022 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 2/8/22. 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.

House Bills

HB 1001 ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY; COVID-19 IMMUNIZATIONS (Lehman)

Allows the secretary of the Family and Social Services Administration to issue a waiver of human services statutory provisions and administrative rules if the secretary determines that the waiver is necessary to claim certain enhanced federal matching funds available to the Medicaid program. Allows the secretary to issue an emergency declaration for purposes of participating in specified authorized federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) emergency allotments. Requires the secretary to prepare and submit any waivers or emergency declarations to the budget committee. Allows the state health commissioner of the state Department of Health or the commissioner’s designated public health authority to issue standing orders, prescriptions or protocols to administer or dispense certain immunizations for individuals who are at least five years old (current law limits the age for the commissioner’s issuance of standing orders, prescriptions and protocols for individuals who are at least 11 years old). Defines “Indiana governmental entity” and specifies that an Indiana governmental entity (current law refers to a state or local unit) may not issue or require an immunization passport. Establishes certain requirements for the temporary licensure of retired or inactive emergency medical services personnel, retired or inactive health care professionals, out-of-state health care professionals or recently graduated students who have applied for a physician assistant, nurse, respiratory care practitioner or pharmacist license. Allows a health care provider or an officer, agent or employee of a health care provider who has a temporary license to qualify for coverage under the Medical Malpractice Act. Provides that an individual is not disqualified from unemployment benefits if the individual has complied with the requirements for seeking an exemption from an employer’s COVID-19 immunization requirement and was discharged from employment for failing or refusing to receive an immunization against COVID-19. Provides that an employer may not impose a requirement that employees receive an immunization against COVID-19 unless...
the employer provides individual exemptions that allow an employee to opt out of the requirement on the basis of medical reasons, religious reasons, an agreement to submit to testing for the presence of COVID19 or immunity from COVID-19 acquired from a prior infection with COVID-19. Provides that an employer may not take an adverse employment action against an employee because the employee has requested or used an exemption from an employer’s COVID-19 immunization requirement. **Position: OPPOSE** **Reason:** This bill interferes with and discourages employers from imposing vaccination requirements for their employees. Would require employers in most instances to pay for the cost of testing that is above $50 for employees who claim a vaccination exemption and are subject to testing. Allows employees who are terminated for refusing vaccinations and testing to draw unemployment benefits. The Chamber opposes this provision of the bill as an inappropriate use of the unemployment system. The bill also expands exemptions from employer vaccination requirements for medical and religious reasons and creates a new exemption for prior COVID infections. These exemptions go beyond the federal exemptions provided in Title VII and create a second, unnecessary set of exemption standards that employers must comply with. The Chamber opposes this bill and all others that interfere with an employer’s right to determine workplace rules and health and safety policies.

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

**HB 1002 VARIOUS TAX MATTERS (Brown)**

Repeals a provision that would require the budget agency to transfer the amount of combined excess reserves that exceed $2,500,000,000 in calendar year 2022 to the pre-1996 account of the Indiana state teachers’ retirement fund. Amends provisions that provide for an automatic taxpayer refund if sufficient excess reserves are available to: (1) clarify the tax return filing requirement for a refund; (2) require that refunds be distributed before May 1 of the calendar year immediately following the year in which a determination is made that the state has excess reserves; (3) remove provisions that require a taxpayer to have adjusted gross income tax liability in order to qualify for the refund; and (4) remove provisions that require the refund to be made in the form of a refundable tax credit. Provides that the minimum valuation limitation applicable to the total amount of a taxpayer’s assessable depreciable personal property in a taxing district is 30% of the adjusted cost of the depreciable personal property purchased before January 2, 2022. Provides an exemption from the 30% minimum valuation limitation for new depreciable personal property purchased after January 1, 2022. Requires the department of local government finance to develop or amend forms for property taxation of assessable depreciable personal property. Repeals the utility receipts and utility services use taxes. Provides a state income tax credit for property taxes paid on certain business personal property. Specifies a formula for determining the amount of the credit. Removes the double direct test currently applied in production sales tax exemptions. Phases down the individual adjusted gross income tax rate from 3.23% in 2022 to 3% in 2026 and thereafter. **Position: SUPPORT** **Reason:** This bill has several components that will promote economic growth in Indiana. Foremost is the elimination of the 30% depreciation floor on business personal property (machinery and equipment). Indiana’s taxation of personal property remains a significant negative aspect of our tax code. And this provision, placing an arbitrary and artificial minimum valuation on the property exacerbates our unfavored position and makes Indiana’s uniquely bad on this front. Phasing out the 30% floor will enhance capital investment. This change is an important step forward in addressing the problem of taxing personal property. The Chamber also supports the provisions making clear that many manufacturing inputs which have been the subject of much litigation over many years are to receive the sales tax exemption that is meant to cover those inputs. This clarification is welcomed and will provide greater certainty to businesses as they attempt to manage their production costs. Another important aspect of the bill is the repeal of the utility receipts tax. This excise tax only adds to the already rising energy costs of manufacturers. The bill is well-designed to make these thoughtfully selected changes in a fiscally sound manner.

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

**HB 1003 NURSING PROGRAMS AND LICENSING MATTERS (Manning)**

Aims to help address Indiana’s nursing shortage with more health care workers being eligible, including those from other states, including: removing existing enrollment increase caps from well-established, high-performing state nursing programs, providing additional flexibility for hiring part-time (as well as full-time) nursing faculty, recognizing foreign nursing school licenses and requiring the Indiana professional licensing agency to issue temporary nursing licenses to individuals who meet certain requirements. **Position:** **SUPPORT** **Reason:** Indiana’s nursing workforce shortage is well-documented with thousands of nursing jobs remaining open across the state, a labor market challenge that has been further exacerbated by the added strain of the COVID-19 pandemic, impending retirements and other factors. House Bill 1003 contains several practical, solution-oriented approaches to strengthen and expand Indiana’s pipeline of skilled nurses.

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

**HB 1045 529 COLLEGE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (Heine)**

Increases the maximum amount of the annual credit against adjusted gross income to which a taxpayer is entitled for a contribution to a college choice 529 education savings plan. Provides that a taxpayer shall be deemed to have made a contribution to a college choice 529 education savings plan on the last day of the preceding taxable year if the contribution is made no later than the time prescribed by law for filing the return for such taxable year (not including extensions). **Position:** **SUPPORT** **Reason:** Indiana’s economic vitality is
HB 1063 DE NOVO JUDICIAL REVIEW OF CERTAIN AGENCY ACTIONS (Jeter)
Requires a court in a judicial review of an agency action to review all issues of law and fact de novo without deference to any previous interpretation made by the agency. Provides that the burden of proving the validity of certain agency actions is the same as in the hearing before the agency. It specifies that a monetary penalty issued by an agency may not be excessive and that a court may review a monetary penalty de novo to determine if the penalty is excessive. An amendment was added in House Judiciary Committee that this bill would apply to state agencies that operate under the Administrative Orders and Procedures Act (Ind. Code 4-21.5). Will not apply to any of the governor, the State Board of Accounts, the state educational institutions, the Department of Workforce Development (DWD), the Unemployment Insurance Review Board of the DWD, the Worker’s Compensation Board of Indiana, the military officers or boards, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, the Department of State Revenue (excluding an agency action related to the licensure of private employment agencies), the Department of Local Government Finance, the Indiana Board of Tax Review, the Indiana Department of Veterans’ Affairs or the Indiana Veterans’ Affairs Commission. **Position: OPPOSE**

**Reason:** This bill would change the long-standing process to the review/challenge of agency actions by requiring the case to start over once the appeal reached the judicial branch. Creating a new evidentiary record would be duplicating what has already been achieved. This would likely overburden the court system, increase costs overall, decrease regulatory certainty and increase delays for businesses. Having two distinct but similar legal proceedings for what will likely be the same outcome is a bad idea. Even though the amended bill does not apply to all executive branch agencies, it applies to many – including the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the Department of Natural Resources, where many of our businesses get permits or are regulated. It is also worth noting that the Indiana Office of Administrative Law Proceedings was created (under HB 1223 in 2019) to improve the administrative appeals process in Indiana.

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

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HB 1072 SCHOOL REFERENDUM LEVIES (Behning)
Provides that a school corporation must distribute a portion of revenue received from a school operating referendum tax levy or school safety referendum levy to each charter school in which students who reside within the attendance area of the school corporation attend. **Position: SUPPORT**

**Reason:** The Chamber supports efforts to ensure public education dollars follow the student and address related public school funding gaps through actions that include requiring a per pupil share of local taxes to follow the student and/or changing inputs to the school complexity index to better support economically disadvantaged students.

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

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HB 1092 BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MATTERS (Heaton)
Removes the requirement that licensees must file to renew their license at least 30 days before the license expires. Requires loan brokers to provide all parties to a services contract with written notice if the loan broker has an exclusive agreement to refer all loans from one lender. Removes solicitors from the definition of investment adviser representative. Requires certain disclosures to the client regarding a third party solicitor. Removes arbitrary disclosure deadline. **Position:** SUPPORT

**Reason:** Implements protections for Indiana investors while eliminating unnecessary employment regulations. Namely, makes the loan brokering process more transparent and creates conveniences for the loan broker industry.

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

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HB 1093 EDUCATION MATTERS (Behning)
Contains provisions on a number of education-related issues, including a reconstituted and expanded charge for the state’s Early Learning Advisory Committee. A legislative priority for both the Indiana Chamber and Governor Holcomb’s administration, HB 1093 includes explicit charges focused on ensuring more equitable and affordable access to childcare, prioritizing both health/safety and kindergarten readiness at state-subsidized programs, and developing a more robust pipeline of childcare workers. **Position:** SUPPORT

**Reason:** The Chamber’s most recent statewide employer/workforce survey found that access to affordable, high-quality childcare was the top external factor negatively impacting Indiana businesses’ ability to attract and retain workers. Moreover, from student learning data, we know that kindergarteners who lack a strong early learning foundation often start school behind their peers and are more likely to struggle throughout their education. Bottom line: This is both an education preparation and a workforce development issue.

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

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HB 1094 CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (Teshka)
Requires the Indiana Department of Education to provide adequate employer liability and worker’s compensation insurance coverage for high school students enrolled in a work-based learning course. Also defines a “youth apprenticeship” program for the purposes of state career and technical education funding. **Position:** SUPPORT

**Reason:** The Chamber is a long-time advocate of work-based learning (internships, apprenticeships, etc.) as a key education
and workforce development strategy. Students gain relevant exposure to the world of work that reinforces classroom learning and employers benefit by growing and diversifying their talent pipelines. A legislative priority for the Chamber this session, HB 1094 alleviates the business liability burden for students under 18 years old who participate in work-and-learn opportunities, thereby removing another barrier to ensuring more employers and students mutually benefit from these talent development experiences.

Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880

HB 1100 AGENCY OVERSIGHT AND RULEMAKING PROCEDURES (Bartels)
Sunsets an executive order or proclamation issued by the Governor before July 1, 2022, and in effect on July 1, 2022, on the earlier of the date specified in the executive order or December 31, 2022. Prohibits an executive order issued by the Governor from being effective for more than 180 days unless the General Assembly approves the extended enforcement of the executive order. If an executive order or proclamation expires as provided under this chapter, a substantially similar executive order or proclamation may not be issued within six months of the expiration date. It requires an agency to repeal a rule before the agency may adopt a new rule that requires or prohibits an action on behalf of a person. Provides that emergency rules may not be effective for a period that exceeds 180 days. … Position: SUPPORT IN PART/OPPOSE IN PART Reason: The Chamber supports the position that executive orders not go on indefinitely without either legislative action or rulemaking to formalize the policy. We oppose the limitation of an executive order expiring after 180 days without the ability to renew or establish a substantially similar executive order. The Governor needs to have the ability to address emergency situations and exercise the powers of the office without calling a special session of the Legislature. We oppose the prohibition of not allowing a new rule without the repeal of the old rule. This could create gaps and endanger agency authority over federal programs delegated to them. We oppose the provision that a rule adopted by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management may not establish requirements more stringent than comparable federal statutes or regulations. There are rare occasions where a state regulation may need to be more strict than federal law and there is already a procedure in place that requires the General Assembly to review a rule that is more stringent than the federal version.

Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881

HB 1107 VARIOUS EDUCATION MATTERS (Clere)
Contains a number of provisions on a wide range of education issues, including the availability and efficacy of childcare and related wraparound services for adult students enrolled at the state’s community college. Position: SUPPORT Reason: Indiana’s economic vitality is directly tied to the state’s education attainment rate, which currently ranks 35th nationally with less than half of working-age Hoosiers having completed education and training beyond high school. A recent Chamber survey of Indiana workers found that childcare needs and cost were among the most frequently cited obstacles to continuing education/training, which is consistent with a wide body of research showing that family obligations and financial reasons top the list of reasons why adult students “stop out” of higher education. Determining effective approaches to address these systemic barriers to upward mobility is a key lever in meeting Indiana’s workforce needs.

Contact: Kevin Brinegar (317) 264-6882

HB 1134 EDUCATION MATTERS (Cook)
Aims (also see HB 1040, HB 1228, HB 1231 and SB 176) to increase school transparency and parent input on local curricula by requiring K-12 classroom materials to be posted online and vetted by parent review committees as well as placing restrictions on teaching about racism, politics and other “divisive” content. Position: SUPPORT IN PART/OPPOSE IN PART Reason: The Chamber has been a long-time advocate for both education transparency (clear academic standards, assessments and accountability measures) and school choice that empower parents to make informed decisions about their child’s education. Parents deserve a voice in what their students are taught and how their students are doing in school. If parents are ever dissatisfied with either, they should always have the flexibility and autonomy to choose a better-fit option for their children. However well intended, this bill (and others like it this session) represent a bridge too far in the state overstepping local control, micromanaging classroom teachers and placing itself in the untenable position of refereeing culture wars.

Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880

HB 1153 WORKER'S COMPENSATION (Lehman)
Provides that if, after the occurrence of an accident, compensation is paid for temporary total disability or temporary partial disability, then the two-year limitation period to file an application for adjustment of claim begins to run on the last date for which the compensation was paid. Increases benefits for injuries and disabilities by 2% each year for four years, beginning on July 1, 2022. Adds an ambulatory outpatient surgical center to the definition of “medical service facility” under the worker’s compensation law. Makes certain changes to the definition of “pecuniary liability.” Establishes clean claim payment requirements related to worker’s compensation claims. Removes outdated language. Makes conforming amendments. Position: SUPPORT Reason: Establishes reasonable reimbursement rate caps for worker’s compensation services provided by ambulatory surgical centers. Provides reasonable worker’s compensation benefit increases for the next several years.

Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880
HB 1157 TOWNSHIP BUDGET (Campbell)
Provides the following with regard to a township that fails to fix its budget, tax rate and tax levy, or submit its estimated budget and other information to the Department of Local Government Finance’s (DLGF) computer gateway: (1) The township’s most recent annual tax levy continues for the ensuing budget year. (2) The township board must adopt and the township trustee must approve a resolution to continue the township’s most recent annual appropriations for the ensuing budget year. (Current law provides that both levy and appropriations continue for the ensuing budget year without any action by the township board and trustee.) Position: SUPPORT Reason: This bill should motivate townships to act more responsibly in complying with their statutory obligation to submit budget information to the DLGF’s computer gateway, thus enhancing transparency for taxpayers.
Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887

HB 1209 CARBON SEQUESTRATION PROJECTS (Soliday)
Establishes a mechanism for underground storage of carbon dioxide (CO2) in pore space in Indiana. Creates a hierarchy of rights in which CO2 is subordinate to the mineral rights of oil, gas and coal. It creates a dispute resolution process if two or more pore space owners can’t agree on how pore space in a storage field will be used. Limits a claim of subsurface trespass against a storage operator conducting carbon sequestration in accordance with a valid Class VI permit and a permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources for a carbon sequestration project. Position: SUPPORT Reason: This bill creates a mechanism for carbon sequestration in Indiana. It also addresses mineral and property rights and addresses liability for carbon sequestration. This bill is consistent with several recommendations regarding carbon made in the Indiana Chamber Foundation’s energy study, Powering Indiana’s Economic Future.
Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881

HB 1226 SOLID WASTE MATTERS (Speedy)
Establishes the Central Indiana Waste Diversion Pilot Project for the purpose of determining the most practical and effective means of diverting recyclable materials from municipal waste streams for productive commercial reuse in industries using large quantities of raw materials. It also changes the definition of solid waste to not include material that is discarded if the material, under federal regulations, is determined to be nonhazardous and the material is used as an ingredient in or a component of a product or as a commodity in a process that results in a product. It also provides that a transfer station that holds a permit to haul or ship hazardous waste may haul or ship solid waste without also holding a permit to haul or ship solid waste. Position: SUPPORT Reason: The pilot project will determine whether it is feasible to expand recycling in central Indiana and use the collected materials to counter supply change shortages of materials. The streamlining of solid waste/hazardous waste permit holder rules makes sense and should reduce regulatory burden. Changing the definition of solid waste to not include beneficially reused material should benefit manufacturers as long as the definition is tightened up so that if a new product made from what started out as solid waste fails, the ingredient does not become a liability for the original generator of the solid waste.
Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881

HB 1229 CARBON SEQUESTRATION PILOT PROJECT (Abbott)
Changes the description of the carbon sequestration pilot project that is authorized under current law. Eliminates the requirement that the operator of the carbon sequestration pilot project be designated by the director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Instead, requires that the operator has submitted an application for a permit for the underground...
injection and permanent geologic sequestration of carbon dioxide to be issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Limits any potential liability of this pilot project by providing that a person asserting a carbon sequestration claim must prove actual interference with the reasonable use of the person’s property or direct and tangible physical damage to the person’s property, not just a lowering of property value due to perceived risk. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill has language similar to that of SB 373 in 2021, which we supported. It addresses property rights and liability for carbon sequestration specific to the pilot project established in Terre Haute. This bill is consistent with several recommendations regarding carbon made in the Indiana Chamber Foundation’s energy study, *Powering Indiana’s Economic Future.*

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

**HB 1251 VARIOUS EDUCATION MATTERS (Behning)**

Contains provisions on several education-related issues, including: 1) a Chamber legislative priority enabling local school corporations to issue adjunct teacher permits to an individual who meets certain requirements and 2) charging the state board of education with identifying what skills or traits students need to be successful upon completion of high school, in consultation with postsecondary education and business/industry. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Indiana’s well-documented shortage of qualified teachers, particularly in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects and rural communities presents significant challenges for schools to offer a well-balanced curriculum that ensures students are prepared for the rigors of college and careers. As such, the Chamber supports added local flexibility for individuals with relevant knowledge and skills from business and community to serve as adjunct (part-time) faculty at area K-12 schools without expecting them to leave their primary career or vocation. Furthermore, the Chamber also supports the bill’s language that would further delineate the post-high school skills student’s need to succeed relative to their chosen graduation pathway (i.e., enrollment, employment, enlistment).

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

**HB 1269 Public Works Projects (Torr)**

Provides that a contractor that employs 10 or more employees on a design-build public works project must provide its employees access to a training program applicable to the tasks to be performed in the normal course of the employee’s employment with the contractor on the public project. Provides that a tier 1 or tier 2 contractor that employs 50 or more journeymen must participate in an apprenticeship or training program that meets certain standards. Requires design-builders and any member of a team working on a design-build public works project to comply with certain statutes. Provides that a public agency awarding a contract for a construction manager as constructor project may not take certain actions based on a bidder’s, offeror’s or contractor’s entering into, refusing to enter into, adhering to or refusing to adhere to an agreement with a labor organization. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill aligns training requirements for design-build projects with public works projects. This creates consistency and clarity. It also prohibits project labor agreements (PLAs) for the awarding of a construction manager contract. Prohibiting PLAs encourages open, fair and competitive bidding in the process.

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

**HB 1296 MULTIPLE EMPLOYER WELFARE ARRANGEMENTS (Carbaugh)**

Amends the law concerning multiple employer welfare arrangements (MEWA) to require a MEWA to provide each participating employer access to claims data that is specific to that employer. Amends the definition of “health payer” for purposes of the all payer claims data base to include a MEWA. Makes the violation of any requirement of the MEWA law an unfair method of competition or unfair or deceptive act or practice. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** While this version is considerably better than the introduced bill, we believe it’s still unnecessary. There is no evidence that this action would improve the operation of MEWAs. What’s more, the penalty contained in this bill is excessive and unnecessary. Requiring that claims data be provided to very small employers also could create a HIPAA violation.

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

**HB 1318 CHILDCARE PROVIDED BY A SCHOOL CORPORATION (Snow)**

Allows a childcare, preschool or latch key program that is operated by a public or private school to be exempt from licensure as childcare facilities if located in the same school building. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The lack of affordable, high-quality childcare across Indiana is one of the outside factors most negatively impacting the state’s workforce. As such, the Chamber supports efforts to increase early childcare access through measures that include (but are not limited to) streamlining existing state regulations not related to health and safety.

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

**HB 1361 TANF AND CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE ELIGIBILITY (Goodrich)**

Provides that for the purposes of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF), certain assets (primary residence, motor vehicles) up to designated amounts do not negatively impact a family’s eligibility to receive assistance through the program. Also exempts income earned by a household member while pursuing a postsecondary degree, workforce certificate, pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship to affect the amount of assistance for the family is eligible to receive under the Child Care and Development Fund voucher program. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The Chamber
supports the elimination of financial disincentives and related barriers that prevent Hoosiers from pursuing education/training opportunities that promote upward mobility and stability for individuals and their families while also addressing state workforce needs. This bill attempts to address an aspect of the “benefits cliff” phenomenon, which is what happens when public assistance programs taper off or quickly phase out benefits as household earnings increase.

Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880

**SB 3 ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY (Charbonneau)**

Allows the secretary of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration to issue a waiver of human services statutory provisions and administrative rules if the secretary determines that the waiver is necessary to claim certain enhanced federal matching funds available to the Medicaid program. Allows the secretary to issue an emergency declaration for purposes of participating in specified authorized federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) emergency allotments. Requires the secretary to prepare and submit any waivers or emergency declarations to the budget committee. Allows the state health commissioner of the state Department of Health or the commissioner’s designated public health authority to issue standing orders, prescriptions or protocols to administer or dispense certain immunizations for individuals who are at least five years old (current law limits the age for the commissioner’s issuance of standing orders, prescriptions and protocols for individuals who are at least 11 years old). …

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Would allow the Governor to end the emergency health orders related to COVID-19 while still allowing the state to receive the supplemental federal funding that comes with the emergency orders. Allows for temporary licenses of health care professionals to aid in relieving the rush of COVID-19 patients in our hospitals and health care facilities.

Contact: Kevin Brinegar (317) 264-6882

**SB 4 LOCAL WORKFORCE RECRUITING AND RETENTION (Holdman)**

Authorizes a local unit (county, municipality, town, township or school corporation) to establish a workforce retention and recruitment program and fund for the purposes of recruiting and retaining individuals (and families) who will satisfy the current and future workforce needs of the unit’s employers or provide a substantial economic impact to the unit. Units may use the fund to market community and or provide incentives to qualified workers. Authorizes the unit to transfer money into the fund from other sources. Requires a qualified worker to enter into an incentive agreement. Provides that the executive of the unit shall administer the fund in coordination with a workforce fund board of managers appointed by the executive of the unit who may create a qualified nonprofit organization for purposes of the program. Reporting requirements.

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Giving locals the ability to use surplus funds to attract or retain talent is the best way to empower communities throughout Indiana to invest in their current and future workforce needs and compete for talent.

Contact: Adam Berry (317) 264-6892

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**Senate Bills**

**HB 1373 AMBULANCE SERVICES (Barrett)**

Provides for the attending physician, or the physician’s designee, of a patient needing transportation by ambulance to sign an order that states the level of ambulance service needed for the patient and the condition or diagnosis of the patient that makes the transportation of the patient by ambulance necessary. Amends the law on emergency medical services to make that law apply to nonemergency ambulance services as well as emergency ambulance services. Requires a health plan to fairly negotiate rates and terms with any ambulance service provider willing to become a participating provider with respect to the health plan. Requires a health plan to pay ambulance service benefits directly to a nonparticipating ambulance service provider (nonparticipating provider) that provides ambulance service to a covered individual if the covered individual executes a written assignment of benefits in favor of the nonparticipating provider. Provides that a nonparticipating provider that provides ambulance service to a covered individual and that is paid less for the service by the health plan than the amount it billed may bill the covered individual for the balance. Provides that if the dispute concerning the amount to be paid to the nonparticipating provider for the ambulance service is not resolved through negotiation, the health plan operator or the nonparticipating provider may initiate binding arbitration to resolve the dispute. Provides that an accident and sickness insurance policy or HMO contract that provides coverage for emergency medical services must also provide reimbursement for: (1) emergency ambulance services; and (2) specialty care transport; provided by an emergency medical services provider organization.

Provides that reimbursement provided for basic and advanced life support services through an accident and sickness insurance policy or HMO contract must be provided on an equal basis regardless of whether the services involve transportation of the patient by ambulance. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber is opposed to granting assignment of benefits to out-of-network ambulance providers. These providers have no contractual relationship with the insurer.

Contact: Kevin Brinegar (317) 264-6882
SB 5 RECIPROCITY (L. Brown, Charbonneau)
Establishes a procedure to grant licenses and certificates to practice certain health care professions in Indiana. Requires the applicant to hold a current license or certificate from another state or jurisdiction and meet other requirements. Allows the applicant who meets certain requirements to apply for a provisional license or provisional certificate, which shall be issued within 30 days. Provides that the medical licensing board may not issue a physician’s license to an applicant using the reciprocity law beginning July 1, 2026. Requires the speech-language pathology and audiology board to, before January 1, 2023, initiate and make every effort to enter into reciprocity agreements. Position: SUPPORT Reason: Reduces barriers to private sector employment for those who are competent to practice in other states or jurisdictions and is a safe way to increase Indiana’s talent base in health care – especially during a time when access to care is at a premium. All professional practitioners are always required to comply with Indiana’s laws and regulations.
Contact: Adam Berry (317) 264-6892

SB 82 FAFSA REQUIREMENT (Leising)
Requires high school seniors to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) unless: (1) a parent of a student or a student, if the student is an emancipated minor, signs a waiver that the student understands what the FAFSA is and declines to complete it; or (2) the principal of the student’s high school waives the requirement due to extenuating circumstances. Position: SUPPORT Reason: The vitality of Indiana’s workforce is directly tied to the proportion of Hoosiers completing education and training beyond high school. Modeled after a proven approach in other states, this student-focused policy would increase access to financial aid opportunities and help more Hoosiers earn industry-recognized credentials and degrees aligned with Indiana’s workforce needs. This legislation is a win-win for taxpayers and the state’s economy, and it should have become law three years ago when it was first introduced.
Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880

SB 85 DRAINAGE TASK FORCE (Leising)
Establishes a Drainage Task Force consisting of six members of the Senate, six members of the House of Representatives, and seven other individuals. Requires the task force to review the responsibilities of landowners and state and local authorities under current laws relating to the drainage of land, make certain determinations concerning drainage and regulatory matters and determine whether the balance between state authority and local authority over drainage of agricultural land favors state authority more in Indiana than in neighboring states. Authorizes the task force to make recommendations. It requires the task force to issue a report and, no later than December 1, 2023. Position: SUPPORT Reason: This bill is consistent with the recommendations of the Indiana Chamber Foundation’s 2014 water study. The task force will review the regulatory framework of Indiana’s drainage laws. This will aid in the development of long-term plans for addressing drainage needs in Indiana.
Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887

SB 95 COVERAGE FOR LIVING ORGAN DONORS (Bohacek)
Prohibits an insurer that issues a policy of life insurance, disability insurance or long-term care insurance from taking certain actions with respect to the coverage of individuals who are living organ donors. Specifies that certain actions constitute an unfair and deceptive act and practice in the business of insurance when taken against a living organ donor by an insurer. Position: OPPOSE Reason: The bill represents a health insurance mandate and the Chamber opposes these mandates as they drive up the cost of health insurance for small employers.
Contact: Kevin Brinegar (317) 264-6882

SB 145 PROPERTY TAX MATTERS (Buchanan)
Provides that a county assessor or township assessor (if any) may request the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) to perform a state conducted assessment of commercial real property used for retail purposes that is at least 100,000 square feet and that is occupied by the original owner or by a tenant for which the improvement was built for a specific assessment date. Sets out the procedures for a state conducted assessment. Provides that the true tax value of commercial real property used for retail properties that is at least 100,000 square feet and that is occupied by the original owner or by a tenant for which the improvement was built shall be determined by the cost approach for the first 10 years of occupancy of the property, less normal depreciation and normal obsolescence under the rules and guidelines of the department. Requires the department to annually establish a standard construction cost per square foot for these properties for each region based on the average market cost in the state to be used for purposes of the assessment, unless the taxpayer has provided the taxpayer’s determination of actual construction costs to the appropriate assessing official not later than 45 days after the date of the assessment notice that is the subject of the review. Position: SUPPORT IN PART/OPPOSE IN PART Reason: We support the provisions in this bill that require the county to establish a separate account for taxes paid on a disputed assessment. This will prevent the impact of large unanticipated refunds when a taxpayer prevails in a large dispute that has carried over for multiple years. We oppose the provisions of this bill that dictate specific assessment practices be applied to a particular type of property without sufficient regard to generally accepted appraisal principles and of the market value-in-use guidelines that apply to other commercial properties. The Chamber believes it is critical to the integrity and equity of our tax assessment practices to not pick out certain property types for a narrowly designated treatment. Such selective, legislatively dictated policy undermines the entire process.
Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881
SB 147 UNDERGROUND PUMPED STORAGE HYDROPOWER (Koch)

Adds underground pumped storage hydropower using abandoned coal mines, quarries or other suitable sites located in Indiana to the list of sources and technologies that qualify as “clean energy resources” for purposes of the statute governing the Indiana Voluntary Clean Energy Portfolio Standard Program. Provides that this technology qualifies as a “renewable energy resource” for purposes of the statute providing certain financial incentives for energy utilities to invest in clean energy projects. Requires the State Utility Forecasting Group to include this technology in its annual study on the use, availability and economics of clean energy resources in Indiana. **Position: SUPPORT** **Reason:** The bill includes this technology in the specified listing of recognized renewable energy sources. This will allow Indiana to compete with other states using this technology and position Indiana to potentially receive federal dollars for this technology as they become available.

Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881

SB 223 VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT (Baldwin)

Adds veteran-owned businesses (in addition to minority business enterprises and women’s business enterprises) to a provision specifying the computation of the maximum amount of tax credits available for the provision of qualified investment capital to those businesses. Provides that if the total amount of tax credits that may be awarded by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) exceeds the $20,000,000 maximum for a particular calendar year, the IEDC may borrow not more than 50% of the credits from the subsequent calendar year. **Position: SUPPORT** **Reason:** Will help ensure credits are available at the end of a calendar year when investment activity tends to increase.

Contact: Adam Berry (317) 264-6892

SB 237 NOTICE REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEETINGS (Boehnlein)

Requires an agency of a political subdivision (local agency) under the open door law to post a meeting notice and meeting agenda (if any) on the local agency’s official web site, in addition to giving notice by any other method required by law. Specifies that the local agency’s official web site may be on a social media platform for purposes of the open door law and the law allowing a local agency to make the first required publication of a notice in the newspaper and any required subsequent publications of the notice on the local agency’s official web site. **Position: SUPPORT** **Reason:** See HB 1101.

Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881

SB 245 STATEWIDE SPORTS AND TOURISM BID FUND (K. Walker)

Establishes the statewide sports and tourism bid fund to provide funding for the purpose of organizing and holding sports and tourism events in Indiana. Provides that the Indiana Destination Development Corporation shall administer the fund and annually distribute to the Indiana Sports Corporation (ISC) a grant amount equal to the amount of a future appropriation by the general assembly. Provides that the ISC manage the funds in accordance with the general laws of the state relating to the handling of public funds and ensure that not less than 25% of the money be distributed to other eligible entities outside of Marion County for the purpose of organizing and holding an event in Indiana. Reporting requirements. **Position: SUPPORT** **Reason:** Indiana and its communities lose events to other states and regions that have access to an established bid fund. This will improve Indiana’s competitiveness for events with a significant economic impact.

Contact: Adam Berry (317) 264-6892

SB 249 HEALTH INSURANCE TRANSPARENCY (L. Brown, Charbonneau)

Specifies that the compliance of a practitioner and a provider facility with federal law meets the good faith estimate requirements concerning health service costs. Allows the commissioner of the Department of Insurance to issue an order to discontinue a violation of a law (current law specifies orders or rules). Requires a domestic stock insurer to file specified information with the department of insurance. Prohibits a health plan from requiring a health care provider to submit a prior authorization request to a third party and requires the health plan to transmit the request to the third party through secure electronic transmission. Amends the deadline by which a health plan must respond to a nonurgent care prior authorization request. Requires a health plan to offer a health care provider that submitted a prior authorization and received an adverse determination the option to request a peer to peer review by a clinical peer concerning the adverse determination. Requires a health plan to post notice of a technical issue with its claims submission system on the health plan’s Internet web site. ... **Position: OPPOSE** **Reason:** We appreciate the Prior Authorization Language being removed and understand the intent to address transparency. However, if the goal of the legislation is to lower costs, we believe there is nothing in this bill that does that. Under this language, every annual policy increase that exceeds 5% is subject to approval by the Department of Insurance – giving the department discretion of price setting in policies. The department already has the authority to review rates and push back against insurers that may be out of line in increased rate filings.

Contact: Kevin Brinegar (317) 264-6882

SB 262 HOUSING TAX CREDITS (Holdman)

Provides an affordable and workforce housing state tax credit against state tax liability to a taxpayer for each taxable year in the state tax credit period of a qualified project in an aggregate amount that does not exceed the product of a percentage between 40% and 100% and the amount of the taxpayer’s aggregate federal tax credit for the qualified project. Provides
that an eligible applicant must apply to the Indiana housing and community development authority for an award of an affordable and workforce housing state tax credit. Provides that a holder of an affordable and workforce housing state tax credit may transfer, sell, or assign all or part of the holder’s right to claim the state tax credit for a taxable year. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill is designed to assist and promote the development of affordable housing in areas where there is a need to accommodate the housing demands for a growing workforce.  
*Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887*

**SB 264 ADMINISTRATIVE RULES REVIEW COMMITTEE (Garten)**  
Would have established the Administrative Rules Review Committee, which would have approved or disapproved agency administrative rules. An amendment was added in Senate Judiciary Committee on Commerce and Technology to make this a bill that creates a task force to study the process by which an agency adopts an administrative rule; fees, fine structures and other items related to revenue streams that are set forth in administrative rules; how Indiana compares to other states; and any other issues related to administrative rulemaking as determined by the task force. The task force shall develop recommendations in a report for the General Assembly. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** We support the review of the agency rulemaking process by the Indiana General Assembly. The review should identify what is being done well and what is not. This should result in a more efficient streamlined process.  
*Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881*

**SB 265 CARBON SEQUESTRATION PILOT PROJECT (Jon Ford)**  
Changes the description of the carbon sequestration pilot project that is authorized under current law. Eliminates the requirement that the operator of the carbon sequestration pilot project be designated by the director of the Department of Natural Resources. Instead, requires that the operator has submitted an application for a permit for the underground injection and permanent geologic sequestration of carbon dioxide to be issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Limits any potential liability of this pilot project by providing that a person asserting a carbon sequestration claim must prove actual interference with the reasonable use of the person’s property or direct and tangible physical damage to the person’s property, not just a lowering of property value due to perceived risk. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill has language similar to that of SB 373 in 2021, which we supported. It addresses property rights and liability for carbon sequestration specific to the pilot project established in Terre Haute. This bill is consistent with several recommendations regarding carbon made in the Indiana Chamber Foundation’s energy study, *Powering Indiana’s Economic Future*.  
*Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881*

**SB 268 COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING (Bohacek)**  
Specifies services to be included as part of a covered colorectal cancer screening for policies of accident and sickness insurance and health maintenance organization (HMO) contracts. Defines “follow-up colonoscopy.” Provides that a policy of accident and sickness insurance or HMO contract must cover: (1) a colorectal cancer screening test assigned either an “A” or “B” grade by the United States Preventive Services Task Force (PSTF); and (2) A follow-up colonoscopy if the result of a non-invasive colorectal cancer screening test with an “A” or “B” grade from the PSTF is positive. **Position: OPPOSE Reason:** The Chamber opposes health care coverage mandates that only impact small employers who cannot self-insure and only represent about 15% of all employee covered lives. These mandates serve to drive up health care for small employers.  
*Contact: Kevin Brinegar (317) 264-6882*

**SB 271 SMALL MODULAR NUCLEAR REACTORS (Koch)**  
Amends the statute governing Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) that are issued by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) for the construction, lease or purchase of electric generation facilities to require the IURC, in consultation with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), to adopt rules concerning the granting of a CPCN for the construction, purchase or lease of small modular nuclear reactors in Indiana for the generation of electricity to be used to furnish public utility service to Indiana customers or at the site of a nuclear energy production or generating facility that supplies electricity to Indiana retail customers on July 1, 2011. The IURC shall consider to what extent, the one or more small modular nuclear reactors proposed by the public utility will replace a loss of generating capacity in the public utility’s portfolio resulting from the retirement or planned retirement of existing electric generating facilities and the small modular nuclear reactors will be located on the same site as or near the facility to be retired. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill establishes a clear procedural pathway for utilities in Indiana to use small modular nuclear reactors to generate electricity and utilize existing infrastructure. This bill is consistent with recommendations made in the Indiana Chamber Foundation’s energy study, *Powering Indiana’s Economic Future*. It will create additional options for energy generation in Indiana.  
*Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881*
**SB 272 WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE**  
*(Koch)*

A culmination of the Wastewater Task Force’s work from the 2021 interim period. Provides that the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) shall serve as the executive branch coordinator for funding allocated or made available to the state or local communities from federal, state and other sources for purposes related to water, wastewater or stormwater infrastructure and systems. Requires the State Board of Education to approve a utility career cluster that allows students to acquire knowledge and skills related to employment in the electric, natural gas, communications, water and wastewater utility industries. Provides for a three-strikes-and-you-are-out mechanism for wastewater utilities that are failing and have been found to be in violation of the law. **Position: SUPPORT** Reason: This legislation is consistent with our legislative business issues and our 2014 water study. In past legislative sessions, the General Assembly dealt with the funding and regulation of drinking water and, to a certain extent, stormwater. This is bringing wastewater infrastructure to the same level of importance.  
Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881

**SB 288 EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEEDINGS**  
*(Buchanan)*

Defines a “pipeline company” and a “public utility” for purposes of the law governing the general procedures to be used in acquiring property by eminent domain. Provides that the public utility or pipeline company must pay the defendant landowner not less than the amount of damages specified in the court appraisers’ report for the property or easement condemned, subject to the landowner’s right to file written exceptions to the court appraisers’ assessment and proceed to trial. Amends the statute with respect to an eminent domain action if there is a trial and the amount of damages awarded to the landowner by the judgment is greater than the amount specified in the utility’s last offer of settlement, the court shall award the defendant costs, including reasonable attorney’s fees, in an amount not to exceed one-third of the fair market value of the property or $50,000, whichever is greater (under current law, the amount is capped at the lesser of $25,000 or the fair market value of the property). **Position: OPPOSE** Reason: This bill will likely increase litigation over eminent domain and increase cost for public utilities, which will go into rates and increase costs for the customers of utilities. The current procedure works well in most cases.  
Contact: Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881

**SB 290 VARIOUS EDUCATION MATTERS**  
*(Raatz)*

Requires the Indiana Department of Education to establish a career coaching pilot program for local K-12 school corporations. **Position: SUPPORT** Reason: Increasing Hoosier students’ awareness and understanding of career pathways that lead to high-wage, high-demand jobs aligned with employer/workforce needs is critical to Indiana’s economic vitality.  
Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880

**SB 304 TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES AND BUDGETS**  
*(Niemeyer)*

Provides that the township board, county executive and county fiscal body may adopt resolutions to collectively petition a court to remove a township trustee from office for committing certain violations. Requires the township board to meet and adopt the budget even if the township board intends for the most recent annual appropriations and annual tax levy of the township to be continued for the ensuing budget year. Corrects a reference to a provision imposing criminal liability for an officer's failure to file an adopted budget with the department of local government finance. Makes technical corrections. **Position: SUPPORT** Reason: Township trustees have in too many instances callously disregarded their statutory duties to the detriment of their taxpaying constituents. This bill provides a needed mechanism for other local elected officials to remove such trustees when they are demonstrably derelict in their duties.  
Contact: Bill Waltz (317) 264-6887

**SB 356 TEACHER MATTERS** *(Rogers)*

Provides that a school corporation may issue an adjunct teacher permit to an individual who meets certain requirements. Also requires the Indiana Department of Education to establish an online adjunct teacher portal to allow school corporations to post a vacant adjunct teacher position and/or an individual to apply for open adjunct positions. **Position: SUPPORT** Reason: Indiana’s well-documented shortage of qualified teachers, particularly in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects and rural communities presents significant challenges for schools to offer a well-balanced curriculum that ensures students are prepared for the rigors of college and careers. As such, the Chamber supports added local flexibility for individuals with relevant knowledge and skills from business and community to serve as adjunct (part-time) faculty at area K-12 schools without expecting them to leave their primary career or vocation.  
Contact: Jason Bearce (317) 264-6880

**SB 358 PERSONAL INFORMATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICIES** *(L. Brown)*

Establishes a new article in the Indiana Code concerning consumer data protection, to take effect January 1, 2025. Includes: definitions; exemptions; rights of Indiana consumers to inquire whether a company is processing their data, correct inaccuracies, delete personal data, obtain copies of their data and opt out of a company’s use of their data for certain purposes; responsibilities and roles of companies regarding consumers’ personal data; protection and processing requirements; limitations as to the scope of the new article; authority of the attorney general to investigate and enforce suspected or actual violations of the new article; and
preemption of local rules, regulation and laws regarding the processing of personal data. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill, amended to reflect Virginia’s law (2021), balances the interests of consumers to protect and remedy data (mis)use with the needs of businesses to operate in the ever-growing digital economy.

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

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**SB 361 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mishler)**

Makes certain amendments to employer tax credit statutes, including establishing an aggregate $600 million cap for applicable tax credits. Establishes an innovation development district program that allows the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) to designate an area then enter into an agreement with local governments for the terms and conditions of the district. A portion of the incremental tax income to remain with the local units and the remainder to go to the IEDC to make grants, loans or investments for specified purposes. Requires the Indiana Destination Development Corporation to design and implement a new remote worker grant program to provide grants to new remote workers for certain qualifying expenses. Provides that the IEDC may award a tax credit for media production expenses for certain media productions in Indiana beginning July 1, 2023.

**Position: SUPPORT Reason:** The bill modernizes our economic development tools and allows the IEDC greater flexibility in using its various appropriations. It creates a new program to attract and retain remote workers, as well as is the first step to enable Indiana to compete (or at least be considered) for entertainment projects we have lost to other states with long-established incentives.

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

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**SB 382 VARIOUS TAX MATTERS (Holdman)**

Makes numerous changes to a vast array of state taxes. These include changes in the reporting of wagering taxes, the distribution date for certain alcoholic beverage tax revenue and wagering taxes, sales tax to aircraft rental or leasing, the sales tax exemption for nonprofit organizations, sales tax exemptions for utilities, sales tax on wholesale sales, treatment of marketplace facilitators, the treatment of nonresident shareholders and partners of a partnership, the distribution of local income tax revenue, due date provisions for returns, refunds, assessments, consolidated returns, the procedures for reporting federal partnership audit adjustments, local income tax distributions, the tax rate imposed on the distribution of closed system cartridges, the tobacco product tax, alcoholic beverage excise tax liability, and innkeeper’s tax procedures. Reduces the tax rate imposed on the distribution of closed system cartridges beginning July 1, 2022, from 25% to 15% of the wholesale price. Requires remote sellers to collect the tobacco product tax on taxable products. Provides a more specific definition of “tobacco products” for purposes of the tobacco products tax. Imposes a tax on the distribution of alternative nicotine products in Indiana based on a rate of $0.40 per ounce of the product weight as listed by the manufacturer. Defines “alternative nicotine products” for purposes of the tax. Beginning January 1, 2023, provides for a $0.72 per cigar tobacco products tax cap for cigars with a wholesale price exceeding $3 per cigar. **Position: SUPPORT IN PART/OPPPOSE IN PART Reason:** The Chamber supports provisions clarifying federal partnership audit adjustment requirements and provisions allowing nonresident partners to opt withholding requirements in some cases. The Chamber is opposed to the provisions reducing the tax on e-cigarettes, vaping products and cigars because any reduction only encourages rather than discourages the use of products that lead to more tobacco usage and ultimately a less healthy citizenry and more costly workforce.

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

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**SB 404 CHILD CARE DESERTS (Qaddoura)**

Requires Indiana’s commission on improving the status of children in Indiana to develop and submit to the Indiana General Assembly a strategic plan to use funds received by the Family and Social Services Administration under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to reduce and eliminate the incidence of geographic areas in which child care services are insufficiently available or affordable to meet the child care needs of the areas’ residents. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** Ensuring statewide, equitable access to affordable, high-quality childcare and early learning opportunities is an issue that has equal relevance to Indiana’s education and workforce imperatives. Given the impending influx of federal funding for early childhood education, it is more important now than ever to provide greater transparency to state policymakers and agency heads in determining where the investment of these additional dollars can have the greatest impact.

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

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**SB 411 COMMERCIAL SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY (Messmer)**

Allows Indiana units of local government to register with the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) to be a Commercial Solar Energy Ready Community and receive financial incentives from the state. The IEDC shall certify a unit as a Commercial Solar Energy Ready Community if the unit meets certain requirements, including the adoption of commercial wind and/or solar sitting regulations that include standards that are not more restrictive than the default standards set forth in the bill. Participation by the local unit of government is voluntary. **Position: SUPPORT Reason:** This bill will resolve a problem that has already created issues in Indiana and cost wind farm companies money to attempt to resolve with local government. State-level guidelines can aid local authorities in their consideration of renewable energy sitting rules. This bill provides some regulatory certainty for this type of energy generation. This is similar to HB 1381 from the 2021 session, which we supported.

**Contact:** Greg Ellis (317) 264-6881
# Legislative Agenda

## Quick Reference: Position by Bill Number and Title

* = Chamber Priority Bill  
OIP = Oppose in Part  
SIP = Support in Part

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