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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

GREAT SCORE PUT ON THE BOARD FOR HOOSIER BUSINESS

By Kevin Brinegar, President and CEO

Combining my 30 years with the Indiana Chamber and the 12 years in my prior roles working for the Indiana General Assembly, I've been directly involved in over 40 legislative sessions. So as you can imagine, as I prepare for retirement in January, I wanted my last session to be a deeply impactful one for Indiana businesses.

Thanks to the diligent work of our government affairs team, I'm proud to say, "Mission accomplished!" While we didn't quite achieve everything on our wish list, the 2023 Indiana General Assembly session saw major policy wins for the state's economic development efforts, employers, the Hoosier workforce and talent pipeline.

For starters, in the realm of business taxation, the first law signed by Gov. Holcomb in the early going was Senate Bill 2 on the taxation of pass-through entities. The bottom line is more than a half-million Indiana business owners can enjoy tax relief and were provided certainty as they prepared their 2022 returns (since it was retroactive). Indiana's small businesses, especially, are in line to benefit.

We're pleased to say the new state budget will indeed help Indiana move forward on some critical fronts. In economic development, the Governor and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) were big winners, and we were very supportive of their proposals. Enhanced IEDC funds will give economic development officials more tools at their disposal as they compete with other states for job-creating expansions and new investments in transformative projects.

The budget also establishes an employer tax credit for businesses that subsidize/support childcare opportunities for employees in their communities. This is an important step in a much-needed strategy aimed at leveraging public dollars to spur additional private sector investment that addresses childcare accessibility and affordability gaps.

Also in the workforce arena, automatic enrollment for eligible students in the 21st Century Scholars program and a requirement for high school seniors to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will put many students, many of whom are from low-income households, on paths to well-paying jobs.

Other strides were made this year on business income tax reduction, public and mental health, a long awaited state energy plan, consumer data protection and more. You can read more about all these new laws on subsequent pages.

I'm most grateful to be heading toward the finish line knowing the 2023 General Assembly was such a beneficial session for Indiana businesses.

It's been an honor to play a prominent role in promoting Hoosier prosperity this year – and in so many years past.

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TAX, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS EMERGE IN BUDGET YEAR

By David Ober, Vice President, Taxation and Public Finance

The ink is dry on a new two-year budget, authored for the first time by Rep. Jeff Thompson (R-Lizton). A longtime member of the Ways and Means Committee, Thompson took the helm last year following the retirement of former Rep. Tim Brown, who chaired the committee for a decade. By contrast, this year marks the third round of budget negotiations for Sen. Ryan Mishler (R-Mishawaka), who succeeded former Sen. Luke Kenley (R-Noblesville) as chair of the Appropriations Committee.

The just-passed budget plan includes $44.5 billion in spending priorities for the next two years (plus an additional $1.125 billion for the current fiscal year). To put that into perspective, during my first legislative session as a lawmaker in 2013, the Legislature passed a $29.8 billion budget (a 50% increase over 10 years).

Among the items to receive funding in this budget are some programs that will contribute positively to the state's business environment. They include: (1) a $500 million second round of Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) grants, (2) new tools and funding to support workforce development efforts, (3) income tax cuts, (4) tax incentives to support private investment in childcare, housing and community redevelopment projects, and (5) investments in transportation infrastructure, among many more. Read more about these efforts in the respective areas of this report.

Housing Issues Part of the Framework

Legislators paid serious attention to a report from the Housing Task Force and worked diligently to enact many of the recommendations in the report. The chairman of the task force, Rep. Doug Miller (R-Elkhart), authored House Bill 1005, which gained passage in the final week of session. The legislation creates a revolving loan program to assist in extending infrastructure to support new housing developments. It is estimated that infrastructure costs associated with housing projects are on average $5,500 per dwelling. The bill also includes language from Senate Bill 300, which alters a recent law to enable more communities to participate in the residential housing tax increment financing (TIF) program. This addition was not without controversy as SB 300, authored by Sen. Linda Rogers (R-Granger), included a provision that removes the authority of school boards to sign off on new housing TIF areas.

Lawmakers acted on other proposals to address housing issues. House Bill 1575, authored by Rep. Tim O'Brien (R-Evansville), begins a process to update residential building codes. House Bill 1627, courtesy of Rep. Maureen Bauer (D-South Bend), will allow nonprofit organizations to participate in tax sales. Senate Bill 35, from Sen. Mike Gaskill (R-Pendleton), provides financial literacy education to high schoolers. Senate Bill 339, authored by Sen. Linda Rogers (R-Granger), was included in the budget bill and provides tax incentives for housing investments. In all, a large majority of the recommendations made by the Housing Task Force were adopted in some form.

Agency Bills Hold Key Tax Provisions for Business

The annual agency update bills for the Department of Local Government Finance (House Bill 1454) and the Department of Revenue (Senate Bill 419) contain a number of provisions that will aid the business community. It is typical for these agency bills to become "Christmas tree" bills, adorned with many and various ornaments throughout the process – and HB 1454 is no exception. The final version of the measure, authored by Rep. Craig Snow (R-Warsaw), is longer than the budget bill and totals 281 pages. There are numerous provisions that are valuable to the business community. They include: (1) a tax credit for employing disabled workers, (2) a tax credit for restoring and preserving historic buildings, (3) certainty in the property tax appeals process, and (4) exempting broadband expansion grants from income tax, among many others. House Bill 1454 also includes a provision that the Chamber opposed that caps the tax due on certain premium cigars sold in the state. Under current law, a 24% tax is paid on the wholesale price of any cigar. The amended law places a cap on the tax such that the maximum amount of tax due on a cigar is $1.

Senate Bill 419, authored by Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle), included a critical provision regarding tax treatment of research and development expenses. The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act requires that beginning in 2022 these investments must be amortized over five years instead of being deducted in the year they are disbursed. Lawmakers included a provision in SB 419 that allows businesses to fully deduct these investments for state tax purposes, saving Hoosier businesses tens of millions of dollars in taxes. Another provision related to payroll withholding for out-of-state workers was also approved. Businesses will no longer be required to withhold payroll taxes for employees who don't reside in Indiana but perform work duties in the state so long as those duty days don't exceed 30 days in a calendar year. Additionally, out-of-state workers do not need to submit an Indiana state tax return.

Near-miss for Business on Property Tax Relief Proposal

Even before the legislative session began, some key legislators expressed concerns about riptides in housing markets leading to large increases in property tax burdens across the state. House Bill 1499, authored by Rep. Thompson, became the primary vehicle for a slate of reforms intended to place an upper bound on tax liabilities without altering the complex system of property assessment.

As introduced, HB 1499 included a provision that would temporarily reduce the property tax cap for homestead properties by 5% beginning in 2024. The bill also temporarily increased the supplemental homestead deduction and placed temporary limits on how much certain local government tax levies may grow. In total, the legislation would have reduced state revenues by between $50-$55 million over two years, and over the same time, local revenues would have declined by approximately $366 million. Most concerning was the roughly $33 million burden shift that would have been placed on businesses across the state by increasing the supplemental homestead deduction.

The sponsor of the legislation, Sen. Holdman, had expressed skepticism publicly about the need for such sweeping tax relief. In committee, HB 1499 was essentially stripped of its underlying content and replaced with various other matters related to local food and beverage taxes, innkeeper's taxes and property tax relief for seniors. The amended bill received unanimous support in committee. Remarkably, on the Senate floor an amendment was adopted that reinserted the increased supplemental homestead deduction provision as well as a higher limit on levy growth. These two provisions alone would have caused an $80 million shift of property tax liabilities to Hoosier businesses.

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CHAMBER NETS CRUCIAL VICTORIES ON EDUCATION, WORKFORCE

By Jason Bearce, Vice President, Education & Workforce Development

Heading into the 2023 Indiana General Assembly, the Indiana Chamber was intent on ensuring that lawmakers' attention was squarely focused on an ambitious set of policy priorities directly aimed at Indiana's most pressing education and workforce challenges. The unifying theme to a wide range of bills championed by the Chamber this session was improving two key metrics with significant implications for Indiana's talent pipeline: education attainment and labor force participation.

Just over half of working-age Hoosiers have completed some form of post-high school education/training, a stubborn number that continues to place a drag on Indiana's economic competitiveness and individuals' prospects for upward mobility. And it's no coincidence that workforce participation rates are dramatically lower for those with a high school diploma or less compared to their more highly educated peers. Taken together, these two data points encapsulate the challenges faced by a state that is justifiably proud of its highly ranked business climate but consistently hamstrung by a deficit of skilled talent. While these issues clearly cannot be addressed solely through legislative action alone, the Chamber was laser-focused on advancing targeted policies and strategic state investments spanning Indiana's full education to workforce continuum.

Expanding Early Learning

In recent years, Indiana employers have increasingly cited access and affordability issues related to childcare, housing and transportation as being among their top workforce barriers – and for good reason. Parents lacking quality childcare options are more likely to be underemployed or absent from the labor force altogether. Likewise, children without the benefit of a strong early learning foundation are more likely to start kindergarten behind their peers and struggle throughout their schooling. Indeed, equity issues related to high-quality early learning and childcare opportunities have emerged as both an education preparation and a workforce development imperative.

With strong urging from the Chamber and a growing coalition of advocates, the Legislature took meaningful steps forward on several pre-kindergarten fronts this session. Lawmakers passed a state budget (House Bill 1001) that significantly raised the family eligibility threshold for Indiana's "On My Way Pre-K" program from 127% to 150% of the federal poverty line and established a new employer tax credit to incentivize small- and mid-sized businesses to increase childcare capacity in their communities. Moreover, language championed by the Chamber in House Bill 1591 will spur related reforms moving forward, including provisions to streamline regulations for state-subsidized childcare providers, to integrate objective measures for kindergarten readiness in Indiana's Paths to Quality system and to create incentives for better compensating and skilling up childcare workers. Outside of the Legislature, the Chamber has been engaged in productive discussions with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration regarding a new $25 million employer-facing matching grant program to encourage private sector investment that increases early learning access and capacity. This multi-pronged approach of increased program eligibility, regulatory reform and public-private sector investment could go a long way toward addressing Indiana's childcare deserts and easing a systemic strain on our state's workforce.

Boosting Postsecondary Attainment

Bills backed by the Chamber that put more low-income and first-generation college students on the path to earning postsecondary credentials tied to workforce needs gained major traction this session. At the top of that list is the passage of House Bill 1449, which ensures that eligible low-income students will now be automatically enrolled in the state's 21st Century Scholars program moving forward.

By paying for up to four years of postsecondary education/training paired with annual college-and-career preparation expectations, the 21st Century Scholars program has emerged as one of Indiana's most effective strategies in driving postsecondary attainment. The Scholars program has increased student postsecondary participation for low-income students, closed college completion achievement gaps at many campuses, lifted thousands of Hoosier families out of poverty and produced a positive return on investment many times over in terms of state economic impact and individual economic mobility.

That's the good news. The bad news: less than half of eligible students enroll in the Scholars program as middle schoolers due to a lack of awareness and/or adequate support to do so. House Bill 1449 flips that dynamic by proactively notifying and enrolling eligible students in the program with the consent of their parents/guardians. The net result of this change will be thousands more Hoosiers in the state's talent pipeline for the benefit of their own futures and Indiana's economy.

A related longtime Chamber priority to make filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) a default expectation for high school seniors finally passed this year after falling short in past legislative sessions. Senate Bill 167 requires high school seniors to file the FAFSA – unless opted out by the student's parent, school counselor or principal – in an effort to increase student access to the wide range of grants and scholarships available to pay for postsecondary education and training that has become essential in today's talent-driven economy. In addition to being one of the most generous need-based financial aid-granting states in the country, Indiana also provides offerings – like the state's Workforce Ready Grants – that are available to all Hoosier high school grads irrespective of family income. Simply stated, Indiana has guaranteed postsecondary pathways for all students, but FAFSA filing is critical to accessing these opportunities.

Over the past few years, a growing coalition of partners have joined the Chamber in advocating for this FAFSA policy, and the addition of compromise language that allows school administrators to opt students out of FAFSA filing after "at least two reasonable" notification attempts removed any remaining opposition. Indiana now joins eight other states, including Louisiana, Texas, Illinois, California, Alabama, Colorado, New Hampshire and Maryland, that have passed similar FAFSA policies to boost postsecondary participation and completion rates. Louisiana, the first state to adopt this policy, went from worst to first in the nation in FAFSA filing, which also contributed to improvements in other key metrics, including high school graduation, as well as college-going and completion rates.

Taken together, making the 21st Century Scholars and FAFSA filing an opt-out rather than an opt-in could well prove to be a gamechanger toward ensuring that every Hoosier, regardless of financial means, who has the aspiration and motivation to earn a postsecondary credential has the opportunity to do so.

Promoting Career Readiness

Of all the bills pertaining to education and workforce under consideration in 2023, House Bill 1002 was arguably the most high-profile piece of legislation passed by the General Assembly. A top House Republican priority, HB 1002 was the vehicle for making good on House Speaker Todd Huston's pronounced goal of "reinventing high school" with a more relevant secondary education that better prepares Hoosier students for the realities and opportunities of today's workforce.

As introduced, the bill's centerpiece was the creation of career scholarship accounts (or CSAs), a state-supported fund that would provide high school students with up to $5,000 in flexible spending to shop for a variety of work-based learning experiences, technical coursework and postsecondary credentials based on their career interests and aspirations. The Senate amended the bill to include another new state fund to offer career advising grants aimed at boosting regional capacity to support career coaching and advising services to area high school students. Lawmakers allocated $15 million to the CSAs and $25 million to the career advising grants over the biennium. Other funded elements of HB 1002 include $2 million for a new Teacher Higher Education and Industry Collaboration Grant Program designed to help teachers engage with area employers and postsecondary institutions with the goal of better connecting classroom learning to post-high school career and training opportunities.

One of the most hotly debated provisions of HB 1002 was a proposed requirement that every 11th and 12th grade student meet with a career advisor for at least 30 minutes during school hours and a related requirement that all high schools host at least one career fair annually. Education associations balked at these expectations citing the logistical challenges involved. In response, the Senate initially stripped these provisions from the bill before ultimately agreeing to include that language during conference committee negotiations. Another provision that received far less attention by comparison was a requirement that the State Board of Education review and revise high school diploma requirements to provide more flexibility for students to engage in work-based learning and related career-oriented experiences.

The Chamber was highly supportive of the overall ambition and concepts in HB 1002 and worked closely with lawmakers and other advocates to finetune the language in the bill's final version. But it's also fair to say that many of the details related to implementing the full scope and scale of this policy are yet to be worked out, with the Legislature largely delegating these responsibilities to state agencies, including the Governor's Workforce Cabinet, Department of Education, Commission for Higher Education and State Treasurer's Office. In the months ahead, the Chamber will be in regular communication with these and other implementation partners at the state and regional levels to make sure HB 1002 delivers on its promise and that the voice and needs of Indiana's business community are well-represented.

Driving Graduate Preparation and Retention

While not as high profile as the other pieces of legislation highlighted above, lawmakers passed several other bills that are no less important to Indiana's talent pipeline.

With strong support from the Chamber, House Bill 1635 places guardrails on the use of high school graduation waivers, a practice that grants diplomas to students who have fallen short of state diploma requirements. It's long been the Chamber's contention that graduation waivers should be limited and rare. Unfortunately, the data show that waivers have become pervasive in some school communities in recent years with the percentage of students graduating with a waiver amounting to a quarter or more of a given graduating class. Even more troubling is the fact that waiver usage is especially prevalent among low-income and minority students. This is simply unacceptable in a talent-driven economy where education credentials are a critical currency that must be valued by higher education institutions and employers alike. Thankfully, HB 1635 will cap the percentage of waivers permitted moving forward, limiting it to no more than 9% of a graduating class next school year and further tightening waiver usage to no more than 3% of students by 2025. House Bill 1635 also clamps down on the rampant misuse of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (or ASVAB) to satisfy the state's graduation pathway requirements. Graduation pathways were intended to provide flexible options for students to earn a diploma that is more closely aligned with their plans and aspirations beyond high school, including enrolling in postsecondary education, pursuing employment or enlisting in the military. As such, earning a minimum proficiency score on the ASVAB was an option designed specifically for those students intending to join the military. However, data show that many schools are administering the ASVAB to all students as a checking-the-box exercise absent any consideration of the student's chosen pathway. House Bill 1635 requires the State Board of Education to revisit and revise this grad pathway requirement accordingly by July 2023.

Senate Bill 404 was another Chamber-backed bill that removes graduation barriers for students, specifically those with some college but no degree. This legislation will help the more than 138,000 Hoosiers who are currently unable to access their college transcripts because of a debt owed to a prior institution. Transcript holds, which disproportionately impact low-income and minority Hoosiers, often create a frustrating Catch-22: Individuals caught in transcript limbo need a higher paying job to pay off their debt, but such jobs are difficult to attain without the ability to finish their degree or prove to an employer that they have college-level experience. While some states have banned transcript holds altogether, SB 404 takes a middle-ground approach by providing transcript access to individuals who are making a good-faith effort to repay what they owe to their institution. This consumer-friendly policy removes a counterproductive roadblock to credential completion while still giving colleges leverage to settle outstanding debts.

In a related move aligned with the Chamber's focus on boosting Indiana's postsecondary attainment ranking, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education's performance funding formula for public colleges and universities has been updated to include a metric aimed at better retaining Indiana's college graduates. Data show that Indiana ranks 14th nationally in attracting out-of-state students but only 40th in retaining these graduates. Indiana has long been regarded as a national leader in aligning state higher education funding with key outcomes, including increased college completion rates. The latest iteration of the state's performance funding formula builds on this foundation by incentivizing institutions to focus on retaining the highly skilled graduates who are essential to meeting Indiana's economic and workforce development needs. Moreover, this change is consistent with the Chamber's business-minded philosophy grounded in measuring what matters and rewarding results.

By almost any objective measure, the 2023 Indiana General Assembly proved to be a momentous – and potentially transformative – legislative session on education and workforce issues. While we cannot legislate our way to a strong and vital workforce, aligning state polices and financial incentives to that end cannot be discounted or underestimated. Now comes the difficult but necessary task of effectively implementing what has become state law and sustaining this encouraging momentum in the months and years ahead. It's a task for which the Chamber is uniquely positioned to be a proactive change agent – and, when necessary, a constructive irritant – to continue propelling Indiana forward.

GAINS MADE ON ECONOMIC AND DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT, DATA PRIVACY AND MORE

By Adam H. Berry, Vice President, Economic Development & Technology

There was a great deal of buzz this year about the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI). It wasn't if the General Assembly would allocate funds for another round of the program, but rather how much.

In the end, lawmakers earmarked $500 million for what they're calling READI 2.0. After the rosy April revenue forecast, some bill watchers speculated that the program would be the beneficiary of additional funds so to avoid triggering an automatic taxpayer refund.

READI 2.0 looks very similar to the existing READI program. But there are two key differences. First, READI 2.0 funds may be used solely for capital projects and infrastructure improvements, whereas the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) has broader discretion under the current program. Second, READI 2.0 requires regions to supply a multi-year strategic plan and detailed financial analyses about the economic impact of the proposed funding along with their grant applications.

The Chamber sought an expansion of the use of funds under READI 2.0 to include quality of life initiatives in addition to brick-and-mortar investments. In fact, we worked closely with Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle) on his second reading amendment that would have permitted regions to attract and retain skilled workforce talent, incentivize collaboration between K-12 and regional industry partners, and increase the availability of childcare. Despite passing the Senate, Holdman's language was removed in conference committee.

Nevertheless, there may be an opportunity to revisit the issue next year because READI 2.0 sets a July 1, 2024 deadline for IEDC to develop a policy that establishes the framework for a READI 2.0 program. In the meantime, IEDC will continue exhausting funds from the current READI program.

In addition to READI 2.0, the budget bill represents a de facto endorsement of the IEDC – both past, present and future. A few examples of budget allocations to IEDC are as follows:

- $19 million for agency administrative duties (27% increase from the 2021 budget)
- $40 million for manufacturing readiness grants (100% increase)
- $4.6 million for the Office of Small Business and Entrepreneurship (77% increase)
- $10 million for direct flights (new line item)

Additionally, the IEDC received $500 million for both its deal closing fund and aggregate tax credit awards (with the option for more when needed), as well as $150 million for site acquisition strategies. The Chamber echoes the General Assembly's confidence in IEDC to continue driving economic growth in Indiana, and we look forward to continuing our long-standing partnership with the agency.

Another state agency that benefited from this year's budget is the Indiana Destination Development Corporation (IDDC), led by Elaine Bedel. Since its inception, the Chamber has supported Bedel's requests for more funding to boost marketing and tourism. This year, the General Assembly allocated the agency $40 million over the biennium, which is the threshold amount Bedel claims will help the IDDC realize its potential. This is more than $28 million more than what the IDDC received in 2021.

One final word on the budget: It includes a $10 million allocation for the Sports and Tourism Bid Fund. Establishing this fund was a Chamber priority in 2022 – with the understanding that funding would come this year. The fund will be managed by a board, which will be staffed and overseen by the Indiana Sports Corp. Money in the fund will be used to issue matching grants to sports and tourism boards throughout the state looking to attract events and conventions. This is yet another example of the General Assembly's investment in state and local efforts to draw talent and events to Indiana.

Consumer Data Protection Finally Moves Forward

Receiving a highly coveted single bill number, Senate Bill 5 – authored by Sen. Liz Brown (R-Fort Wayne) – was a priority not only for the Indiana Senate but also the Indiana Chamber. Its passage, unanimous in both houses, was the culmination of an 18-month effort by the Chamber and our partners. It represents a win for industry and consumers concerned about where their data goes online and how it is used.

Currently, there is no federal data privacy protections or consumer rights against companies that collect their personal information online, in the stores or at the gas pump and subsequently monetize it as part of their business operations or sell it to third parties.

Last year, Sen. Brown's data privacy bill, Senate Bill 358, died in the House. As a result, the Chamber was a leading stakeholder that worked with Sen. Brown to ensure this year's iteration did not meet a similar fate. Representatives from the banking, health, insurance and technology industries corresponded regularly over the past year and agreed on language that would ultimately become SB 5. The law does not take effect until January 1, 2026, which gives businesses sufficient time to prepare and lawmakers at least two sessions to make any adjustments based on lessons learned from other states, like Virginia, Colorado and Utah, which are implementing their own versions of data privacy laws.

In short, SB 5 strikes a balance between consumers' rights to protect how their personal data is used by companies, if at all, with companies' ability to use the data they collect from consumers to further their business objectives.

Senate Bill 5 is modeled largely after Virginia's law, which is favored by the business community. The main difference between Virginia's version and others, like California for example, is that enforcement authority is granted to the state's attorney general rather than consumers having the ability to sue companies individually in court. Much like complaints against insurance companies, which are received and evaluated by the Indiana Department of Insurance, the attorney general is the first line of defense against frivolous lawsuits.

Towards the very end of SB 5's journey through this year's session, we caught wind of a poison pill that risked its passage. But, after engaging a group of Chamber members, we were able to keep the bill clean from rogue amendments both in committee and during the second reading phase, which ultimately helped get the bill across the finish line.

Another win in the technology sector is Senate Bill 271, authored by Sen. Brian Buchanan (R-Lebanon) and sponsored by Rep. Craig Snow (R-Warsaw), which will allow certified technology parks (CTPs) to recoup more of the tax revenue generated from the CTPs' activities.

CTPs' primary mission is to serve as an incubator for young and small businesses. However, CTPs are unique business models in that the better they perform, the more resources they demand. Why? Because as companies outgrow the CTP in which they were hatched, CTPs must backfill revenue generating tenants with new start-ups that produce little – if any – tax revenue.

As introduced, SB 271 would have increased from $100,000 to $500,000 the amount of incremental tax revenue that high-performing CTPs may capture and redeploy for the benefit of the CTP.

Throughout session, the Chamber reiterated arguments that it has made over the past three years in support of this additional funding; namely that (1) the incentive that CTPs receive is new money that would otherwise be unavailable but for CTPs repurposing vacant or underutilized real estate in the community, and (2) CTPs have a track record of improving Indiana's lagging entrepreneurship and average wage metrics.

Ultimately, it was a more modest increase in support for CTPs. The House Ways and Means Committee, led by first-year chairman Rep. Jeff Thompson (R-Lizton), reduced the figure to $250,000. We certainly still consider this a victory after failing to achieve any significant progress in years prior.

Driving Toward Progress

Another years-long Chamber priority has been driving privilege card legislation. And, for the first time, the Senate's Homeland Security and Transportation Committee heard and passed legislation that would grant driving privileges to illegal immigrants living in Indiana.

Senate Bill 248, authored by Sen. Blake Doriot (R-Goshen), is similar to legislation introduced by Republican and Democrat members from the House and Senate since 2020. Until now, however, the makeup of the committees responsible for hearing the bill made it impossible to pass the first leg of the legislative process.

This policy is a pragmatic solution to an issue that impacts every Hoosier and business. Nineteen states and Washington D.C. have enacted similar legislation, which is proven to decrease fatal hit-and-run accidents, decrease automobile insurance premiums and increase state revenue – not to mention other, nonquantifiable socio-economic benefits for those who live and work in our communities, albeit illegally.

Due to the fiscal nature of the bill, it was recommitted to the Senate Appropriation Committee, where it died. There are simply not enough lawmakers willing to grant driving privileges to illegal immigrants for the bill to progress further this year. But it will resurface.

Another Kind of License

Occupational licensing reform is another long-standing policy concern for the Indiana Chamber. This year, two bills passed that have the potential to reduce barriers to entry into the workforce for tens – if not hundreds – of thousands of licensed professionals in the years to come.

First, House Bill 1343, authored by Rep. Jake Teshka (R-South Bend) and sponsored by Sen. Mike Gaskill (R-Pendleton), tasks state agencies with reviewing regulations associated with occupational regulations and either modifying or eliminating those that are not in the best interest of licensed Hoosier professionals. The Chamber testified in support of the bill and suggested language that was amended into the bill that limits those who can challenge a regulation to professionals who actually work in the field to which the regulation applies.

House Bill 1555, entitled Military Family Occupational Licenses and authored by Rep. Chris May (R-Bedford), has also been signed by Governor Holcomb.

In short, the bill requires Indiana's professional licensing boards to recognize licenses from other jurisdictions earned by military members, spouses and children. If the qualified individual has practiced in another jurisdiction for at least one year and is not the subject of a regulatory investigation, then the licensing board must issue that person Indiana's equivalent of that professional license. Furthermore, if the jurisdiction does not use a license to regulate a profession, but a license is required in Indiana, then the licensing board must issue an Indiana license if that individual has worked in that profession for three years.

In 2020, the Chamber was the champion of House Bill 1008, which was authored by Rep. Martin Carbaugh (R-Fort Wayne). That bill would have introduced universal license recognition for all practitioners, not just those related to someone in the military. Despite the bill failing a few months later, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Holcomb's first executive order precluded regulatory enforcement against health professionals licensed in other states, or those who recently retired, who provided health services in Indiana.

The Chamber is hopeful that HB 1555 is a foot in the door for expanding this regulatory practice to all qualified professionals who will add value to the state's workforce and economy.

Some 'Civil' Actions

This was a surprisingly busy session on the civil justice front; primarily because of the interesting dichotomy of having influential Republican lawmakers who are also trial attorneys. As a result, tort bills that would benefit employers met resistance and bills that would harm businesses (i.e. more legal liability exposure and higher damages) were supported.

Fortunately, the Indiana Chamber was mostly successful this year in improving (or maintaining) Indiana's business legal climate. A few examples are as follows:

House Bill 1124, a measure to allow discovery of civil proceeding advance payment (CPAP) contracts, a.k.a. lawsuit-lending loans, during litigation is now law. In a lawsuit, plaintiffs may receive a copy of a company's litigation defense insurance agreement, which gives claimants insight into the company's ability to settle and defend the suit. Now, companies will know whether a plaintiff's claim is being bankrolled by a third party and the amount of the loan the claimant received. This mutual knowledge by both parties is more likely to facilitate efficient settlements.

There were also two bills on which the Chamber took diverging opinions that died in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The first, Senate Bill 163 (Evidence of Lack of Seat Belt Use), authored by Sen. Mike Gaskill (R-Pendleton), would have allowed evidence about who was wearing a seatbelt at the time of an accident into evidence. The Chamber supported this bill because it would have increased the possibility of comparative fault if someone was injured in an accident because they were unbuckled. This bill died unexpectedly when Sen. Rick Niemeyer (R-Lowell) cast a deciding vote against the bill in his very first vote as a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The Chamber adamantly opposed another bill that died in Senate Bill 288, which would have permitted the recovery of punitive damages in certain wrongful death lawsuits. Author Sen. Aaron Freeman (R-Indianapolis), a trial attorney, received support from his Republican committee colleague, Sen. Eric Koch (R-Bedford), who is also a trial attorney, as well as all Democratic members of the committee. The Judiciary Committee chairwoman, Sen. Liz Brown (R-Fort Wayne), never called SB 288 for a vote, which sealed its demise.

HEALTH CARE DRAWS HEALTHY AMOUNT OF ATTENTION; WORK REMAINS ON WORK SHARE, CIGARETTE TAX HIKE

By Ashton Eller, Vice President, Health Care Policy and Employment Law

The Indiana General Assembly passed two important pieces of legislation addressing the mental and physical health of Hoosiers. Both bills are products of state commissions formed to combat two different health crises facing Indiana. Senate Bill 1 and Senate Bill 4 were Senate priorities and received considerable media coverage throughout the process, and the Indiana Chamber strongly advocated for their passage at all stages of the legislative process.

In August 2022, the Governor's Public Health Commission released an extensive report detailing Indiana's lack of investment in health funding that has only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the Commission, Indiana's life expectancy has dropped by six months after reaching a peak of 77.5 years in 2010. Indiana also ranks in the lowest 75% for a variety of health metrics including infant mortality, obesity and smoking.

Senate Bill 4, authored by Sen. Ed Charbonneau (R-Valparaiso), implements many of the recommendations of the Commission to combat these consistently low rankings. Most notably, SB 4 allows local health departments to opt into state funding to help provide core public health services to improve local health metrics. This optional opt-in allows local health departments the ability to tap into increased funding while maintaining local control of these vital services. House Bill 1001 provided that increase in funding. The Chamber worked with other stakeholder organizations to advocate in support of SB 4 throughout session.

Late last summer, the Indiana Behavioral Health Commission released its report stating, "The Commission studied the cost of untreated mental illness in Indiana and estimates that cost to be a staggering $4.2 billion annually." Hoosier businesses shoulder the brunt of these costs through direct health care costs, absenteeism, premature mortality and expenses for caregivers. The Indiana General Assembly took heed of the human and economic cost of this crisis and turned it into legislation.

Senate Bill 1, authored by Sen. Michael Crider (R-Greenfield), helps address a different health issue for Hoosier businesses. Mental health concerns cost Indiana employers $885 million annually in lost productivity, and it costs the state $708 million per year in direct health care costs. Senate Bill 1 received nearly unanimous support throughout the process and was quickly signed by Gov. Eric Holcomb. The budget bill, House Bill 1001, also funded the structure of SB 1 with $100 million total over the two-year budget for community mental health (to establish certified community behavioral health clinics, provide crisis response services including mobile crisis teams, and crisis receiving and stabilization services) and $10 million for regional mental health facilities. The Chamber testified in favor of SB 1 in both chambers of the General Assembly.

The Indiana Chamber applauds Sens. Charbonneau and Crider for their impassioned work on these critical issues. The mental and physical health of Hoosiers is imperative to the business climate in Indiana and these bills are important steps in making Indiana a healthier state.

Protecting MEWAs

The Chamber opposed House Bill 1410, authored by Rep. Martin Carbaugh (R-Fort Wayne), because it put more regulations and penalties on multiple employer welfare arrangements (MEWAs) and would potentially make them less attractive to employers looking for a health plan option. In the first half of session, Indiana Chamber President and CEO Kevin Brinegar testified in opposition to HB 1410.

MEWAs are a tool that helps employers come together as a common group for the purpose of providing health care benefits. As a group, the members of the MEWA can mutualize the costs of health care. MEWAs have become an attractive option to employers throughout Indiana due to their ability to help control the rising cost of health care plans. These MEWA trusts have operated in Indiana for a number of years with no issues.

House Bill 1410 passed the full House and headed to the Senate. The Chamber and other employers participating in MEWAs vehemently lobbied against this legislation in both chambers of the Legislature. Senator Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville), the chairman of the Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee, elected not to hear the bill, killing it for the 2023 session.

Dangerous, Overly Burdensome Legislation Stopped

The Chamber testified early in session against Senate Bill 330 in the Senate Local Government Committee. Authored by Sen. Mike Bohaceck (R-Michiana Shores), this bill would have subjected contractors on public and tax-advantaged projects to additional reporting requirements, including completion of a weekly report of wages and hours of the contractor's employees' work on the project.

The contractors would then have to make these reports available to both the public entity contracting the project and/or offering tax incentives and the Indiana Department of Labor.

We opposed the bill as it was far too broad in scope and included any project that is an alteration, building, reconstruction, renovation, expansion, demolition, improvement, repair or maintenance of a structure. If a contractor is doing any of these activities – no matter how minor – on a tax-advantaged or public project, they would have been subjected to turning over their payroll records to a public entity, thus potentially making them public record.

Senate Bill 330 passed the Senate Local Government Committee but was not called down for second reading in the Senate, thus killing the measure. We appreciate the work of business-minded senators defeating this bill before it could move further through the process.

Looking Out for Small Employer Plans

Late in the session, the House Public Health Committee inserted language regarding insurance carrier payments to ambulance providers into an unrelated bill, Senate Bill 275. The Chamber opposed the content, especially as a committee amendment late in the legislative process. The amendment adopted in committee would have set a required rate for ambulance providers to be paid by insurance carriers.

Working with allies, including the Insurance Institute of Indiana and the Indiana Manufacturers Association, we helped remove this dangerous language from the bill on a second reading amendment.

This attempt was an unprecedented move to create an assignment of benefits by requiring that insurance carriers pay ambulance providers directly, even without the presence of a contract. We opposed the statutory increase of costs by requiring out-of-network ambulance providers be paid at a set rate. The Chamber had significant concerns this cost would be mutualized among small, fully insured employers. This amendment encouraged ambulance providers to stay out of network and not contract with a health plan. It also did nothing to protect Hoosiers who could still be balance billed, even with the increased payments to ambulance providers.

Additionally, this amendment was a last-minute legislative move that would have hurt Hoosiers and small employers. This language has been filed as a stand-alone bill in past sessions and has not garnered support through the normal legislative process. We appreciate Rep. Peggy Mayfield (R-Martinsville) offering the second reading amendment that successfully removed this dangerous language.

Cigarette Tax Discussion Moves Forward But Falls Short

State lawmakers debated and passed two separate measures to increase the health metrics of Hoosiers. The debate quickly turned to how to fund these important pieces of legislation. From the onset, the Indiana Chamber believed the best way to improve in these areas – directly and with a dedicated funding stream – was to increase Indiana's cigarette tax by $2 per pack.

Indiana's tobacco use statistics are abysmal at best and Indiana's adult smoking rate is the eighth highest in the nation and has been too high for years. We believed raising the cigarette tax by $2 per pack should have been appealing to legislators for the one-two punch it provided: bettering Hoosier health and generating dedicated dollars that can specifically go to the state's public health and mental health needs.

Unfortunately, the Indiana General Assembly decided to appropriate the funding for SB 1 and SB 4 directly from the state budget as opposed to an increased cigarette tax. However, we were encouraged to hear positive comments from legislators in both chambers and parties regarding the implementation of a tobacco tax. We hope to build on that momentum for 2024 as we look to increase the health of Hoosiers and decrease the health care costs of Indiana employers.

Work Share Takes Small Step Forward

Work share legislation was the focus of Senate Bill 347, authored by Sen. Eric Bassler (R-Washington), which passed the Senate Pensions and Labor Committee for the first time this year.

Work share is a voluntary and cost-effective alternative to traditional unemployment benefits. In lieu of laying off a number of employees entirely during an economic downturn, an employer elects to retain those employees and reduce the hours of all employees or of a particular group or department. Those employees are then permitted to draw partial unemployment compensation benefit based upon the reduced hours.

The Chamber was cautiously optimistic about work share legislation this session, but unfortunately procedural hurdles near the end of the first half of session stymied SB 347's progress.

The Indiana Chamber has made work share a priority for several years. Receiving a positive vote from the Senate Pensions and Labor Committee is a notable step forward, and the Chamber continues to advocate for this legislation to get passed into law in 2024. We would like to thank Sen. Bassler and other members of the Senate Pensions and Labor Committee for their ardent support of SB 347.

David Ober

Continued from page 2

Representatives and senators quickly began the work of ironing out their differences on HB 1499, which was one of the final bills to be voted on in the waning hours of the legislative session. In the end, lawmakers settled on a temporary relief in the form of stricter limits on levy growth and an increased supplemental homestead deduction. Additionally, there are some pro-taxpayer provisions related to assessment appeals, levy freezes and transparency.

Ultimately, the Legislature opted to shift the cost of local government from homeowners (voters) to other property owners. However, the shift is smaller than it otherwise might have been. As property assessments are mailed out around the state, one thing is certain: Lawmakers will continue to be pressed by constituents to address increasing property tax burdens in pockets around the state.

Indiana's Tax Structure Up in the Air

A new effort to keep an eye on over the next two years calls for the establishment of a state and local tax review task force to study a potential reduction or outright elimination of certain state taxes. This was found in Senate Bill 3, authored by Senator Travis Holdman, the chair of the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee who led the push for this two-year examination of Indiana's tax model. Rest assured, the Indiana Chamber will be engaging where appropriate on this topic once the review gets underway to ensure the business community's interests are adequately considered and remain at the forefront.

WINS FOR ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS; ANTI-FREE MARKET MEASURES MITIGATED

By Greg Ellis, Vice President, Environmental & Energy Policy & Federal Relations

Heading into the 2023 legislative session, inflation was predicted to get worse and there was talk of an economic downturn. Although inflation has continued, our economy is still going strong. I point to this because I did not expect much to happen in the way of forward-looking energy and environmental legislation because of the economic forecast. I was pleasantly surprised by what we were able to accomplish this session in those areas. We had some big successes! Before I paint too rosy a picture though, we did have some challenges and had to work hard to get some bad legislation changed or defeated.

An Updated Energy Plan

The passage of House Bill 1007 (Electric Utility Service) represents a major win for the Chamber. The legislation was introduced by Rep. Ed Soliday (R-Valparaiso) and sponsored by Sen. Eric Koch (R-Bedford) in the Senate. The bill creates an energy plan for Indiana and provides that in decisions concerning Indiana's electric generation resource mix, energy infrastructure and electric service, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission must consider the following attributes of electric utility service: reliability, affordability, resiliency, stability and environmental sustainability.

The new law updates Indiana's outdated energy plan – something the Chamber and its members have been advocating to happen for several years. The last energy plan for Indiana was created in 2006 by the Office of Energy Development under Gov. Mitch Daniels' administration. The 21st Century Energy Policy Task Force completed four years of work in October 2022 and the Indiana Chamber Foundation completed an energy study in November 2020.

This bill passed both houses with nearly unanimous support with only Reps. Becky Cash (R-Zionsville) and Ryan Dvorak (D-South Bend) voting "no." The Governor signed it into law on April 20. This comes at a time when Indiana's energy makeup is in transition – much has changed since 2006!

IDEM Primacy Over Air Permits

Another item that we strongly advocated for prior and during the legislative session was a bill that would allow the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to implement a fee increase in its air permitting program, which is delegated to the agency by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Admittedly, it does seem strange for the Chamber to advocate for a permit fee increase, but this was imperative.

In October 2022, the EPA sent a warning letter to IDEM threatening to take over the Title V program because it was not self-supporting, which is a requirement in the U.S. Clean Air Act. If the EPA were to take over the program, it would increase delays and overall costs for those regulated under this program. It was clear that our member businesses would prefer to work with IDEM over the EPA on air issues. Senator Rick Niemeyer (R-Lowell) and sponsor Rep. Alan Morrison (R-Brazil) heard our call and shepherded Senate Bill 155 through to the finish line. The measure requires the Environmental Rules Board to adopt rules raising two Title V operating permit program fees, increasing the annual fee for a Part 70 permit to $6,100 and the annual fee for a federally enforceable state operating permit to $6,100 for five years, beginning with the fees first due and collectable after December 31. It also mandates that a federal regulation that classifies or amends a designation of attainment, nonattainment or unclassifiable for any area in Indiana under the Federal Clean Air Act is effective and enforceable in Indiana on the effective date of the federal regulation.

A coalition of organizations representing the regulated community supported this bill; no one testified in opposition. However, the bill did face challenges as it moved through the process. Several legislators indicated that they wanted to call the EPA's bluff and not give IDEM more money. Thankfully, the legislation passed and was signed into law, providing regulatory certainty, which is of key importance to our regulated members.

A Refill of Wetlands Legislation

Senate Bill 414 (Onsite Sewage Systems and Holding Tanks), authored by Sen. Gary Byrne (R-Byrneville) and sponsored by Rep. Karen Engleman (R-Georgetown), started out as a residential septic matter that would not have a significant impact on Chamber members. As introduced, the measure would require a local health department to grant a permit for an alternative residential onsite sewage system if certain requirements were met. On March 22, Rep. Doug Miller (R-Elkhart) offered an amendment that would have significantly changed the definition of state wetlands from those established in Senate Bill 389 during the 2021 legislative session. The Chamber opposed that legislation and this amendment, which would have made it difficult for real property to be classified as a wetland (instead of at least one requirement it would have to satisfy multiple requirements). The further reduction of regulation of state wetlands would have been a drastic move and would have had negative impacts on water quality, flood control and quality of place factors that impact attracting/retaining the brightest and best workers and top businesses to Indiana. The bill was favorably amended by Rep. Matt Lehman (R-Berne) through a second reading amendment on the House floor, which eliminated much of the language that the Chamber opposed. Senator Byrne dissented on the legislation during the conference committee process and the wetlands language was removed altogether because it was determined to not be germane to the bill topic. Subsequently, SB 414 successfully passed the General Assembly.

A High Profile, Anti-Free Market Measure

The biggest challenge this session was trying to defeat House Bill 1008 (Pension Investments), which was authored by Rep. Ethan Manning (R-Logansport). The bill, as introduced, would have required the trustees of the Indiana Public Retirement System, in making and supervising investments of funds of the public pension system, to discharge the fiduciary's duties solely in the financial interest of the participants and beneficiaries of the public pension system. It also set out that any investment action should not be taken based upon furthering social, political or ideological interests. We were fine with the bill if it had stopped there, in fact that is what Senate Bill 292 did. But HB 1008 did not stop there as it would prohibit investment or require divestments from funds or companies with policies of limiting investment based upon the following environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards: failure to meet or commit to environmental standards; engagement in the anti-firearms/ammunition industry; contracts with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for the detention of immigrants/border security policies; and work in the fossil fuels, timber, mining, agriculture and food animal production.

We opposed the bill because it was picking specific sectors as winners and losers regarding where state pension funds can be invested, thus rendering the legislation anti-free market. It didn't consider what is in the best interests of state pensioners. Market performance and financial performance of investments should be driving pension investments. The biggest issue was that the fiscal impact statement indicated a nearly $7 billion loss over the next decade to over 500,000 pensioners. Any shortfall in pensions would have to be made up with tax dollars, with the largest share likely coming from the business community. The bill was amended several times. Private equity funds were removed from consideration in the House Ways and Means Committee. The bill was amended in the Senate Pensions and Labor Committee so it no longer applied to bank holding companies as defined by Indiana law. The legislation was amended again on the Senate floor to remove the ability of the Indiana treasurer to compile, maintain and publish a list of "bad actors" who have ESG commitment – a move we favored. The Senate version of the bill passed by a vote of 38-9. The House filed a concurrence, and it passed by a vote of 66-29. The Governor signed the bill into law. We were still opposed to the final version because of the list that picks winners and losers in Sec. 2(b) of the bill and the evidence of improper behavior (Sec. 6). With that said, it is a much better bill than was introduced because it was narrowed. We believe that the trustees of the pension funds should manage the funds based solely upon the financial returns without the list in Sec. 2. I expect that this bill will get revisited next year – possibly adding categories. We have seen other states that have passed this type of legislation go after insurance underwriting in subsequent legislative sessions, so we will be vigilant!

Cold Alcohol Debate Heats Up

Senate Bill SB 20 (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Areas) was authored by Sen. Liz Brown (R-Fort Wayne) and sponsored by Rep. Matt Lehman (R-Berne). This bill started out as legislation that was not of significant interest to the Chamber. As it passed out of the Senate, the bill would allow a city or town to designate an outdoor location as a refreshment area with the approval of the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission. The designated retailer permittees would be allowed to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption within the refreshment area. However, on March 28, Rep. Manning offered several amendments in the House Public Policy Committee including language from House Bill 1585, which died in the first half of the session. The Chamber opposed that legislation. The amended bill would have prohibited grocery stores, convenience stores or drug stores from selling any alcoholic beverages iced or cooled. Only package liquor stores would be allowed to sell chilled alcoholic beverages. The Chamber opposed the bill as amended because it would take a step backward by removing options in grocery and drug stores. Moreover, the Chamber believes that all licensed retailers should be allowed to sell cold beverages (Indiana is the only state that does not allow grocery retailers to sell cold beer). Senator Brown dissented on the bill during the conference committee process and the language that we opposed was removed. The measure subsequently passed out of both houses and was signed into law by Governor Holcomb.

Overall, I would like to thank certain members of the Indiana General Assembly – namely Sens. Rod Bray (R-Martinsville), Travis Holdman (R-Markle), Koch, Niemeyer and Brown, as well as Reps. Morrison and Soliday – who were especially helpful in getting the business-friendly bills through the process and defeating the bills that we staunchly opposed.

LEGISLATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

In the summer, watch for three key components of the Chamber's ongoing legislative communications effort:

Interim Update

The *Interim Update*, issued monthly, includes the latest legislative, regulatory and judicial developments at the state and federal levels.

2023 Legislative Vote Analysis

Want to know if your legislator voted for pro-economy, pro-jobs legislation? The answers will be revealed in the *2023 Legislative Vote Analysis*.

2023 Return on Investment

In this annual fiscal assessment, learn what the Chamber's lobbying efforts at the Statehouse mean to your pocket.

LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD 2023

Bill #	Title/Description	Chamber Position	1st House				2nd House						Status
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

CIVIL JUSTICE

Bill #	Title/Description	Chamber Position	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Status
HB 1124	Civil Proceeding Advance Payment Contracts	S											Signed
SB 163	Evidence of Lack of Seatbelt Use	S											Died
SB 288	Damages in Wrongful Death Actions	O											Died

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | INNOVATION | TECHNOLOGY

Bill #	Title/Description	Chamber Position	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Status
HB 1167	Live Streaming and Archiving Meetings	S											Signed
HB 1179	Third Party Food Delivery Services	SIP/OIP											Signed
HB 1343	Occupational Regulations	S											Signed
HB 1555	Military Family Occupational Licenses	S											Signed
SB 5	Consumer Data Protection	S											Signed
SB 248	Driving Privilege Cards	S											Died
SB 271	Certified Technology Parks	S											Signed
SB 344	Northeast Indiana Strategic Development Commission	S											Signed
SB 468	Uniform Commercial Code Amendments	S											Signed

EDUCATION | WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Bill #	Title/Description	Chamber Position	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Status
HB 1002	Education and Workforce Development	S											Signed
HB 1160	Workforce Development Pilot Programs	S											Signed
HB 1449	21st Century Scholars Program	S											Signed
HB 1558	Science of Reading	S											Signed
HB 1559	Employment of Individuals With a Disability	S											Employer tax credit passed in HB 1454
HB 1591	Various Education Matters (includes early learning/ childcare provisions)	S											Signed
HB 1635	Education Matters (includes graduation waiver improvement)	S											Signed
SB 135	Eligibility for Resident Tuition	S											Died
SB 167	FAFSA	S											Signed
SB 186	Tax Credit for Employer Provided Childcare	S											Passed in HB 1001
SB 375	Childcare Assistance	S											Increased early learning childcare eligibility passed in HB 1001
SB 380	Various Education Matters	S											Signed
SB 404	Access to Transcripts	S											Signed
SB 486	Education Matters	S											Signed

Status and Position Key

1 – First Reading
2 – Committee Action
3 – Second Reading
4 – Third Reading
5 – Committee Referral
6 – Committee Action
7 – Second Reading
8 – Third Reading
9 – Conference Committee
10 – Action by Governor
S – Chamber Supports
O – Chamber Opposes
N – Neutral
O/S – Oppose/Support in Part
OIP – Oppose in Part
SIP – Support in Part

LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD 2023

			1st House				2nd House						
Bill #	Title/Description	Chamber Position	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Status
ENERGY | ENVIRONMENT													
HB 1007	Electric Utility Service	S											Signed
HB 1072	Aviation Fuel Inspection Fees	O											Died
HB 1173	Utility Scale Battery Energy Storage Systems	S											Signed
HB 1190	Closure of Coal Combustion Residuals Surface Impoundments	O											Died
HB 1489	Sewer and Storm Water Fees Incurred by Tenants	O											Died
HB 1512	Waste Diversion and Recycling	S											Signed
HB 1530	PFAs Water Safety Standards	O											Died
HB 1626	Administrative Rules Concerning Carbon Dioxide	S											Signed
SB 91	Annual Inspection of CFOs	O											Died
SB 155	Air Pollution Control	S											Signed
SB 176	Small Modular Nuclear Reactors	S											Signed
SB 246	Excess Liability Trust Fund	SIP/OIP											Signed
SB 247	Carbon Sequestration	O											Died
SB 390	Commercial Solar and Wind Energy Ready Communities	S											Signed
SB 414	Onsite Waste Management Districts and Septage Holding Tanks	OIP											Signed
SB 451	Carbon Sequestration Pilot Project	S											Signed
SB 472	Advanced Recycling	S											Signed
HEALTH CARE | WORKPLACE SAFETY													
HB 1297	Decriminalization of Marijuana	O											Died
HB 1410	Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangements	O											Died
SB 1	Behavior Health Matters	S											Signed
SB 4	Public Health Commission	S											Signed
SB 213	Advanced Practice Registered Nurses	S											Died
SB 387	Health Care	O											Died
LABOR													
HB 1024	Public Works Projects	S											Died
HB 1102	Repeal of Right to Work	O											Died
HB 1127	Exemption from COVID-19 Requirements	O											Died
HB 1243	Paid Family and Medical Leave	O											Died
HB 1253	Overtime Compensation	O											Died
HB 1375	Worker Misclassification	O											Died
SB 7	Physician Noncompete Agreements	N											Signed
SB 330	Payroll Information on Public Finance Construction	O											Died
SB 347	Work Sharing Unemployment Benefits Program	S											Died
SB 366	Minimum Wage	O											Died
SB 421	Unemployment Benefits	O											Died
LOCAL GOVERNMENT													
HB 1035	Township Assessors	S											Died
HB 1040	Requirements for State Elected Officials	S											Signed
HB 1041	State Board of Accounts	S											Signed
HB 1438	Publication of Local Government Notices	S											Signed
SB 182	Township Mergers	S											Died

LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD 2023

Bill #	Title/Description	Chamber Position	1st House 1	2	3	4	2nd House 5	6	7	8	9	10	Status
MISCELLANEOUS													
HB 1008	Pension Investments	O											Signed
HB 1585	Sale of Cold Alcoholic Beverages	O											Died
SB 20	Alcohol Matters (House amended HB 1585 into it)	OIP											Signed
TAXATION | PUBLIC FINANCE													
HB 1001	State Budget	S											Signed
HB 1005	Housing	S											Signed
HB 1085	Tax Increment Financing	O											Died
HB 1430	Business Personal Property Tax Exemptions	S											Died
HB 1454	Department of Local Government Finance	SIP/OIP											Signed
HB 1575	Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission	S											Signed
HB 1618	Business Personal Property Tax Exemptions	S											Died
HB 1627	Sales of Tax Sale Properties to Nonprofits	S											Signed
SB 2	Taxation of Pass-Through Entities	S											Signed
SB 3	State and Local Tax Review Commission	S											Signed
SB 46	County Option Circuit-Breaker Tax Credit	OIP											Signed
SB 281	Business Personal Property Tax Exemptions	S											Signed
SB 300	Residential Tax Increment Financing	S											Passed in HB 1005
SB 417	Various Tax Matters	S											Signed
SB 419	State Tax Matters	NIP/SIP											Signed

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