



March 6, 2026

# Final Legislative Report

## 2026 Session Short But Impactful for Businesses

By Vanessa Green Sindors, president and CEO, Indiana Chamber of Commerce



We're pleased to report that many beneficial policies were adopted this legislative session to make Indiana more competitive and better position businesses and their workforce to prosper. Today's *Final Legislative Report* highlights those top achievements – including victories in childcare access, work-based learning, tax conformity and local government modernization.

The 2026 session also laid the groundwork for what we believe will be notable progress in 2027. Tort reform is at the top of the list. The very condensed timeframe we had this short session proved a little too challenging to get all the stakeholders on the same page. Still, legislation to prevent frivolous lawsuits against businesses made it to the final week, with many encouraging discussions had on the ways to move forward. Tort reform will be one of the key policy areas we will be working on this interim.

As part of our work leading up to the 2027 budget session, we will be holding a policy summit that brings together all of our Indiana Chamber policy committees. This will be a great opportunity for cross-collaboration and to fine tune our efforts to ensure we have the most impactful, thoughtful legislative policies and priorities that represent our broad membership base.

Please contact our public affairs team with any questions about the bills found in this *Final Legislative Report*.

### Tax Climate

Natalie Goodwin

(317) 264-6881 | [ngoodwin@indianachamber.com](mailto:ngoodwin@indianachamber.com)

#### **SB 27 STADIUM AUTHORITY (Mishler)**

**Chamber Position: Support / Outcome: Passed**

Establishing a regional stadium authority to finance and manage major facilities could provide an economic spark to northwest Indiana. It creates a clear and accountable structure for large-scale investments. By enabling coordinated, long-term planning, the bill supports economic development and quality of place improvements that attract private investment, tourism and workforce talent. These assets strengthen the region's competitiveness and generate sustained economic activity for surrounding businesses.

#### **SB 212 STATE INCOME TAX AUTHORITY**

**(Holdman)**

**Chamber Position: Support / Outcome: Passed**

Providing timely and targeted federal tax conformity is needed for the 2025 filing season, giving employers and taxpayers clarity and certainty. The bill is intentionally narrow, aligning Indiana law with a limited set of federal provisions, such as telehealth-related HSA eligibility and select technical fixes, without reopening broader or more costly policy debates.

## **SB 243 VARIOUS TAX MATTERS (Holdman)**

**Chamber Position:** Support in Part

**Outcome:** Passed

Addressing federal tax conformity and related technical issues is appreciated. This legislation represents a step toward maintaining alignment with federal law and avoiding unnecessary complexity for taxpayers. The Chamber looks forward to opportunities to further improve Indiana's tax competitiveness in future legislation.



## **Economic Growth/Tech**

**Contact:** Adam H. Berry

(317) 264-6892 | [aberry@indianachamber.com](mailto:aberry@indianachamber.com)

## **SB 264 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDITS (Buchanan)**

**Chamber Position:** Support in Part

**Outcome:** Defeated

Modernizing the Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) tax credit enhances Indiana's competitiveness. This would allow greater flexibility to support job creation, employee relocation and workforce retention, which are critical to attracting and retaining talent in today's labor market. While the Chamber supports expanding EDGE eligibility to reflect real-world recruitment and retention costs, the requirement tying retention credits to a minimum 25% wage increase raises practical concerns for employers.



## **SB 281 INCOME TAX CREDITS (Goode)**

**Chamber Position:** Support in Part / Outcome: Defeated

The Chamber has long supported regional economic development as an instrument of long-term prosperity in Indiana. This bill encourages continued private investment at a regional level. The introduced version of SB 281 is preferred and established a sustained funding model that the Chamber hopes will be reconsidered in the House, which would allow flexibility with respect to regions' abilities to identify and finance initiatives that best support their local economies.

## **Education/Workforce**

**Contact:** Camille D. Blunt

(317) 264-6880 | [cblunt@indianachamber.com](mailto:cblunt@indianachamber.com)

## **HB 1098 WORK-BASED LEARNING LIABILITY (Commons)**

**Chamber Position:** Support / Outcome: Passed

Clarifying liability and workers' compensation responsibilities for employers participating in work-based learning programs – providing greater legal certainty and consistency – is a needed step. By establishing clear agreements, modernizing outdated statutory references and ensuring insurance decisions are based on objective risk criteria, the bill reduces barriers for employers to offer hands-on learning opportunities. These protections help expand work-based learning programs that strengthen Indiana's talent pipeline while maintaining appropriate safeguards for students and employers.



## **HB 1149 PRE-KINDERGARTEN CARE SGO TAX CREDIT (Heine)**

**Chamber Position:** Support / Outcome: Died

This bill establishes an early childhood scholarship tax credit for contributions made to a scholarship granting organization (SGO) that conducts a program to provide scholarships for children who attend a qualified early childcare provider. The SGO grants would be awarded to qualifying individuals to be utilized at a qualified childcare provider including high quality licensed childcare centers, homes, ministries and state accredited public and nonpublic schools. This represents progress toward alleviating the burden on the current Child Care and Development Fund voucher program and pushes the industry to create more quality childcare supply.



## **HB 1152 HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION MATTERS (Lawson)**

**Chamber Position:** Support / Outcome: Passed

By preventing restrictive homeowners association policies that prohibit in-home childcare operations otherwise allowed under state law, the bill removes unnecessary barriers to workforce participation and small-scale entrepreneurship. These changes promote clearer rules, greater accountability and flexibility that better reflect the needs of families, workers and local communities.



## **HB 1177 CHILDCARE ASSISTANCE (Cash)**

**Chamber Position: Support / Outcome: Passed**

Expanding and modernizing Indiana's employer childcare tax credit by increasing eligibility and recognizing a broader range of qualified childcare expenditures would be helpful. By giving employers more flexibility to invest in childcare solutions and allowing targeted use of TIF resources to expand capacity, the bill helps address one of the most significant barriers to workforce participation, thereby improving access to reliable childcare supports employee retention, productivity and long-term economic growth across the state.



## **HB 1195 HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAMS (Davis)**

**Chamber Position: Support / Outcome: Passed**

Extending and refining Indiana's high school equivalency pilot program would increase access for certain individuals under 18 while allowing additional time to evaluate outcomes. By providing flexible, alternative pathways to credential attainment, the bill supports workforce readiness and helps reconnect young people to education and employment opportunities. These options strengthen Indiana's talent pipeline while maintaining accountability through continued pilot evaluation.

## **HB 1242 SCHOOL CORPORATION AND CHARTER SCHOOL REPORT (Yocum)**

**Chamber Position: Support / Outcome: Passed**

Improving transparency and data-driven decision-making by requiring the Department of Education to compile and report statewide data on school corporations and charter schools will help improve schools. By providing policymakers with clearer, comparable information, the bill supports informed policy development and accountability without imposing new mandates. Access to reliable education data helps strengthen long-term workforce planning and ensures education policy remains aligned with employer and student needs.

## **SB 161 EDUCATION MATTERS (Raatz)**

**Chamber Position: Support / Outcome: Passed**

Expanding education and workforce opportunities by leveraging federal tax credit scholarships and strengthening alignment between workforce training programs and federal credentialing rules will help the talent pipeline. By opting into the federal scholarship framework and coordinating state agencies around eligible training programs, the bill promotes greater access, transparency and accountability without imposing new mandates on employers. These measures support workforce development efforts that are responsive to labor market needs while maximizing available federal resources to benefit students and employers alike.

## **SB 162 DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (Rogers)**

**Chamber Position: Support / Outcome: Passed**

Modernizing and clarifying unemployment insurance and workforce statutes by removing outdated provisions, refining eligibility definitions and improving administrative efficiency is beneficial. By aligning benefit calculations and suitability standards more closely with current policy intent, the bill promotes consistency and reduces ambiguity for employers and claimants. These updates support a more predictable and responsive workforce system while preserving appropriate safeguards for workers during periods of transition or disruption.

## **SB 254 IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE (Goode)**

**Chamber Position: Support / Outcome: Passed**

Modernizing Ivy Tech's governance structure by consolidating duties, clarifying roles and strengthening employer representation in campus leadership is important. By ensuring board expertise aligns with key industry sectors and reinforcing collaboration between campuses and the statewide board, the bill improves responsiveness to workforce needs. These updates support a more efficient, employer-informed community college system that is better positioned to deliver relevant skills and credentials aligned with Indiana's economy.

## **Housing**

**Contact: Camille D. Blunt**

(317) 264-6880 | [cblunt@indianachamber.com](mailto:cblunt@indianachamber.com)

## **HB 1001 HOUSING MATTERS (Miller)**

**Chamber Position: Support / Outcome: Passed**

Streamlining local zoning and permitting requirements and expanding by-right development for a range of residential uses would help combat housing supply constraints. By reducing unnecessary local barriers and increasing predictability in housing approvals, the bill supports the development of more affordable and varied housing options needed to attract and retain workforce talent. These reforms help improve housing availability while promoting consistency and efficiency in local land use regulation.



# Government Efficiency

Contact: Natalie Goodwin

(317) 264-6881 | [ngoodwin@indianachamber.com](mailto:ngoodwin@indianachamber.com)

## HB 1210 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE (Snow)

Chamber Position: Neutral / Outcome: Passed

This is a wide-ranging Department of Local Government Finance bill that makes technical and administrative changes across multiple areas of state and local government, including local finance, taxation, transparency and reporting requirements. Given the breadth and largely technical nature of the legislation, the Indiana Chamber is neutral on the bill as written and continues to monitor its provisions and impacts.

## HB 1315 TOWNSHIP REORGANIZATION (Shonkwiler)

Chamber Position: Support / Outcome: Passed in SB 270

Providing a framework for reorganizing certain townships beginning in 2028 by transferring township powers, services and assets to a municipality or county through a structured planning process is a step in the right direction toward modernizing local government and improving efficiency and accountability.



## SB 172 ADMINISTRATIVE RULEMAKING (Johnson)

Chamber Position: Support / Outcome: Died

Strengthening oversight of administrative rulemaking by requiring legislative budget review when proposed rules impose significant compliance costs is a positive step. By increasing transparency and accountability before costly rules take effect, the bill helps prevent unnecessary regulatory burdens and ensures agencies more clearly justify the need for provisional or interim rules. This added scrutiny promotes predictability, cost containment and a more balanced regulatory environment for employers, businesses and taxpayers.

## SB 226 INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION (Baldwin)

Chamber Position: Support / Outcome: Passed

Modernizing and streamlining state procurement by expanding category management and strengthening oversight of purchasing and contracting across state agencies would increase efficiency. This bill also helps control costs and promotes more consistent contracting practices through improved coordination, planning and accountability. These reforms support a more effective use of taxpayer dollars

while creating clearer, more predictable procurement processes for businesses that contract with the state.

## SB 270 TOWNSHIP MERGERS (Niemeyer)

Chamber Position: Support / Outcome: Passed

Like HB 1315, this is a township modernization measure. It would require the Department of Local Government Finance to compile data this year on each township (excluding townships in Marion County) and assign points based upon each township government's performance, ultimately dictating which townships must merge. With the addition of language from HB 1315, the Chamber is proud of the progress made this session. It's a step in the right direction to maximize efficiency.



# Energy/Environment

Contact : Natalie Goodwin

(317) 264-6881 | [ngoodwin@indianachamber.com](mailto:ngoodwin@indianachamber.com)

## HB 1002 ELECTRIC UTILITY AFFORDABILITY (Shonkwiler)

Chamber Position: Neutral / Outcome: Passed

Establishing new electric utility affordability policies, including the automatic enrollment of certain residential customers receiving home energy assistance into levelized billing plans with the ability to opt out, the creation of standardized low income customer assistance programs funded by utilities and expanded reporting and regulatory oversight by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission could help improve billing predictability and transparency for customers. The legislation also places additional limitations on when residential electric service may be disconnected during extreme weather conditions and clarifies state procedures related to energy emergencies.

## SB 7 CARBON SEQUESTRATION (Niemeyer)

Chamber Position: Oppose / Outcome: Died

Imposing local approval requirements that would create significant uncertainty and barriers for carbon sequestration projects by allowing county-level vetoes over infrastructure that often spans multiple jurisdictions could have negative consequences. By fragmenting oversight and adding inconsistent local controls, the bill risks delaying or deterring investment in emerging carbon management technologies that are critical to long-term energy reliability and emissions reduction. These constraints could undermine Indiana's competitiveness in attracting large-scale energy and industrial projects that depend on predictable, statewide regulatory frameworks.

## **SB 277 INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (Niemeyer)**

**Chamber Position: Support / Outcome: Passed**

Modernizing and streamlining Indiana's environmental regulatory framework by updating the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's structure, rulemaking authority and permitting processes would enhance efficiency. By reducing outdated or duplicative requirements and clarifying agency roles, the bill improves regulatory efficiency and predictability while maintaining environmental protections. These reforms help lower compliance uncertainty, expedite permitting timelines and support responsible economic growth across industries that depend on clear and workable environmental regulations.



### **Business Law Reform**

**Contact: Adam H. Berry**

(317) 264-6892 | [aberry@indianachamber.com](mailto:aberry@indianachamber.com)

## **SB 256 (Amended to include HB 1099) FOREIGN ADVERSARIES (Commons/Garten)**

**Chamber Position: Neutral / Outcome: Passed**

The Chamber worked throughout the session to refine these bills and strengthen employer-focused safeguards, ensuring they advance national security objectives while supporting Indiana's economic competitiveness. Due to changes made in the second half of session, the Chamber's position on these bills moved from "oppose" to "neutral." Senate Bill 256, as amended, is narrowly tailored to achieve the legislative intent, which is to increase transparency into the interactions and intentions of individuals and companies from adversarial countries wishing to work or do business in Indiana.

## **HB 1404 WORKPLACE VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDERS (Dant Chesser)**

**Chamber Position: Support / Outcome: Defeated**

It's important to have legislation clarifying that workplace violence restraining orders may be used to protect employees from credible threats of violence that are unrelated to collective bargaining disputes. By ensuring employers and employees have access to appropriate legal protections in situations involving personal conflicts, the bill promotes safer workplaces without undermining established labor relations frameworks.



## **HB 1417 CAUSES OF ACTION AND DAMAGES (Lehman)**

**Chamber Position: Support / Outcome: Defeated**

Strengthening Indiana's civil justice system by limiting expansive public nuisance claims and reinforcing incentives to resolve disputes efficiently through qualified settlement offers is important for the business community. By curbing litigation strategies that create uncertainty and excessive legal exposure, the bill promotes fairness, predictability and cost containment for employers and local governments. These reforms help prevent lawsuit abuse while preserving legitimate avenues for enforcement, supporting a more balanced legal environment that encourages investment and economic growth. This bill marks the first step in a multi-year effort.



## **SB 76 IMMIGRATION MATTERS (Brown)**

**Chamber Position: Neutral / Outcome: Passed**

This legislation clarifies and strengthens enforcement of immigration-related employment and compliance requirements, including employer hiring practices and cooperation with federal immigration authorities. From the outset, our priority was to ensure that responsible employers who follow the law are protected. The final language reflects important guardrails, including reasonable diligence standards and structured enforcement, which provide clarity for employers while reinforcing compliance expectations across the marketplace.

### **Health/Wellness**

**Natalie Goodwin**

(317) 264-6881 | [ngoodwin@indianachamber.com](mailto:ngoodwin@indianachamber.com)

## **HB 1137 FOODS AND BEVERAGES ON SCHOOL PROPERTY (McGuire)**

**Chamber Position: Oppose in Part / Outcome: Died**

While the Indiana Chamber supports the goal of promoting healthier food options for students, the bill establishes a state-level regulatory framework that could create inconsistency with existing and evolving federal standards. The Chamber believes a uniform federal approach provides greater clarity and consistency for schools, vendors and families, and has concerns with state-level regulation in this area.

**SB 282 COMPOUNDING DRUGS;  
REGISTRATION OF MEDICAL SPAS  
(Charbonneau)**

**Chamber Position: Support / Outcome: Passed**

Establishing state standards governing drug compounding, including requirements related to the sourcing and use of bulk drug substances and compliance with existing federal law, provides additional regulatory clarity and oversight. The legislation also requires medical spas operating in Indiana to register with the state and designate a responsible licensed practitioner to oversee services and ensure compliance with applicable health and safety requirements.

**Various Matters**

**Contact: Adam H. Berry**

(317) 264-6892 | [aberry@indianachamber.com](mailto:aberry@indianachamber.com)

**SB 4 VARIOUS FISCAL MATTERS (Mishler)**

**Chamber Position: Support / Outcome: Passed**

Among its covered fiscal matters is noteworthy language that includes allowing the budget agency to use appropriations from the Financial Responsibility and Opportunity Growth Fund to provide funding to the Child Care Development Fund voucher program. This is a temporary solution with the commitment for future long-term solutions.

**SB 8 LIBRARY BUDGETS (Byrne)**

**Chamber Position: Neutral in Part/Oppose in Part /**

**Outcome: Passed in HB 1406**

Adjusting the budget-growth threshold that triggers binding fiscal review of public library budgets and aiming to better balance local oversight with operational flexibility are

understandable objectives. The Chamber generally supports efforts that promote fiscal discipline and transparency at the local level, but is monitoring how the revised threshold would function in practice and whether it could create unintended constraints or inconsistencies across communities. Ongoing review is warranted to ensure the change supports responsible budgeting without undermining local service delivery or predictability for taxpayers.

**SB 219 UNIFORM ANTITRUST PRE-MERGER  
NOTIFICATION ACT (Charbonneau)**

**Chamber Position: Oppose in Part / Outcome: Defeated**

Imposing on Indiana a national model framework that is untested is not a best practice and could have unintended consequences. It would require duplicative notification obligations that have no demonstrable consumer or market benefit. The Chamber is particularly concerned that expanded pre-merger reporting requirements could discourage investment and complicate transactions for companies operating in or considering Indiana versus other states that do not have the same mandates.

# 2026 Quick Reference: Chamber Positions



## House Bills

**NOTE: Chamber Priority Bills in Bold**

Bill	Bill Title	Position
HB 1001	HOUSING	Support
HB 1002	ELECTRIC UTILITY AFFORDABILITY	Neutral
<b>HB 1098</b>	<b>WORK-BASED LEARNING LIABILITY</b>	<b>Support</b>
HB 1099	FOREIGN ADVERSARIES	Neutral
HB 1137	FOODS AND BEVERAGES ON SCHOOL PROPERTY	OIP*
HB 1149	PRE-KINDERGARTEN CARE SGO TAX CREDIT	Support
HB 1152	HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION MATTERS	Support
HB 1177	CHILDCARE ASSISTANCE	Support
HB 1195	HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAMS	Support
HB 1210	DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE	Neutral
HB 1242	SCHOOL CORP. AND CHARTER SCHOOL REPORT	Support
HB 1315	TOWNSHIP REORGANIZATION	Support
HB 1404	WORKPLACE VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDERS	Support
HB 1417	CAUSES OF ACTION AND DAMAGES	Support

## Senate Bills

**NOTE: Chamber Priority Bills in Bold**

Bill	Bill Title	Position
SB 4	VARIOUS FISCAL MATTERS	Support
SB 7	CARBON SEQUESTRATION	Oppose
SB 8	LIBRARY BUDGETS	NIP/OIP*
SB 27	STADIUM AUTHORITY	Support
SB 76	IMMIGRATION MATTERS	Neutral
SB 161	EDUCATION MATTERS	Support
SB 162	DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	Support
SB 172	ADMINISTRATIVE RULEMAKING	Support
SB 212	STATE INCOME TAX CONFORMITY	Support
SB 219	UNIFORM ANTITRUST PRE-MERGER NOTIFICATION ACT	OIP
SB 226	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION	Support
<b>SB 243</b>	<b>VARIOUS TAX MATTERS</b>	<b>SIP*</b>
SB 254	IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE	Support
SB 256	FOREIGN AGENT REGISTRATION ...	Neutral
<b>SB 264</b>	<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDITS</b>	<b>SIP*</b>
SB 270	TOWNSHIP MERGERS	Support
SB 277	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT	Support
SB 281	INCOME TAX CREDITS	SIP*
SB 282	COMPOUNDING DRUGS; REGISTRATION OF MEDICAL SPAS	Support

\* SIP/OIP/NIP = Support in Part/Oppose in Part/Neutral in Part

# 2026 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD



Bill #	Title/Description	Chamber Position	1st House		2nd House				Status				
			1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
HB 1001	Housing	Support											Signed by the Governor
HB 1002	Electric Utility Affordability	Neutral											Signed by the Governor
HB 1098	Work-Based Learning Liability	Support											Signed by the Governor
HB 1099	Foreign Adversaries	Neutral											Passed in SB 256; Signed by the Governor
HB 1137	Foods and Beverages on School Property	Oppose in Part											Died
HB 1149	Pre-Kindergarten Care SGO Tax Credit	Support											Died
HB 1152	Homeowners Association Matters	Support											Signed by the Governor
HB 1177	Childcare Assistance	Support											Signed by the Governor
HB 1195	High School Equivalency Programs	Support											Signed by the Governor
HB 1210	Department of Local Government Finance	Neutral											Awaiting Governor's Signature
HB 1242	School Corporation and Charter School Report	Support											Signed by the Governor
HB 1315	Township Reorganization	Support											Passed in SB 270; Signed
HB 1404	Workplace Violence Restraining Orders	Support											Died
HB 1417	Causes of Action and Damages	Support											Died
SB 4	Various Fiscal Matters	Support Childcare Amendment											Signed by the Governor
SB 7	Carbon Sequestration	Oppose											Died
SB 8	Library Budgets	Neutral in Part/ Oppose in Part											Passed in HB 1406; Awaiting Governor's Signature
SB 27	Stadium Authority	Support											Signed by the Governor
SB 76	Immigration Matters	Neutral											Signed by the Governor
SB 161	Education Matters	Support											Died
SB 162	Department of Workforce Development	Support											Signed by the Governor
SB 172	Administrative Rulemaking	Support											Died
SB 212	State Income Tax Authority	Support											Signed by the Governor
SB 219	Uniform Antitrust Pre-Merger Notification Act	Oppose in Part											Died
SB 226	Indiana Department of Administration	Support											Signed by the Governor
SB 243	Various Tax Matters	Support in Part											Signed by the Governor
SB 254	Ivy Tech Community College	Support											Signed by the Governor
SB 256	Foreign Agent Registration ...	Neutral											Signed by the Governor
SB 264	Economic Development Tax Credits	Support in Part											Died
SB 270	Township Mergers	Support											Signed by the Governor
SB 277	Indiana Department of Environmental Management	Support											Signed by the Governor
SB 281	Income Tax Credits	Support in Part											Died
SB 282	Compounding Drugs; Registration of Medical Spas	Support											Signed by the Governor

## STATUS 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