

ISAHU

February 14, 2020

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INDOT invests \$120M for infrastructure improvements

Pregnancy accommodations bill unlikely to be restored in House

Microchip in workers faces ban

House unanimous for noncompete bill

Statehouse donation drive nets 7,000 food, hygiene items for homeless vets

Bill forcing form from students resisted

Primary challenges await lawmakers

Indiana governor says he'll keep up pregnancy protection bid

Governor signs bill delaying penalties from new Indiana exam

House leaders push for short-term syringe exchange extension

General Assembly Overview – *The Calm, Before the Storm*

Compared to the first few weeks of the 2020 General Assembly, the first week of the second half kicked off at a much slower pace. While the week saw a full committee schedule, only two bills in each chamber were heard on Second Reading, and no bills made it past Third Reading.

As a matter of fact, with only eight session days until the Committee Report Deadline, there are still 28 bills that have yet to be even assigned to a committee. Some notable bills that fall under this category include [House Bill 1414](#), which would slow the closing of coal plants in Indiana, [HB 1337](#), which deals with notification to water utilities in the event of a hazardous spill, and [HB 1021](#), which involves mechanic's liens.

As a reminder, the Committee Report Deadline for both chambers is Thursday, Feb. 27.

Governor Priority Legislation:

Here is where all of Governor Eric Holcomb's Priority Legislation stands as of February 13:

Teacher training and licensing flexibility – [HB 1003](#) was heard in the Senate Education Committee on Wednesday. It was held for further discussion.

Stopping surprise medical billing – [HB 1004](#) was assigned to the Senate Health and Provider Services Committee and [SB 3](#) was sent to the House Insurance Committee. Both bills have yet to be scheduled for hearings.

Health care cost transparency – [SB 4](#), which would establish an all-payer claims data base, was referred to the House Public Health Committee and has yet to be heard. In addition, it is widely expected parts of [HB 1005](#), which died in the first half of session, will be added to legislation currently in the House.

USEFUL LINKS

[Indiana General Assembly](#)

[Governor Eric Holcomb](#)

[Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch](#)

[Attorney General Curtis Hill](#)

[Secretary of State Connie Lawson](#)

[State Treasurer Kelly Mitchell](#)

[State Auditor Tera Klutz](#)

[Indiana Register](#)

“Hands-Free” Driving – [HB 1070](#), which would ban holding a mobile device while driving, is scheduled for a hearing this upcoming Tuesday, Feb. 18 in the Senate Homeland Security and Transportation Committee.

2-1-1 Call Services – The [bill](#) that would improve Indiana's 2-1-1 Services was referred to the Family, Children, and Human Services and has yet to be scheduled for a hearing.

Raising the smoking age – Both [HB 1006](#) and [SB 1](#) were referred to their respective health committees. Both have yet to be heard. Each bill also raises the age to *purchase* tobacco or vaping products to 21.

Pregnancy Accommodations – The Senate stripped the mandate that was originally in [SB 342](#) out of the bill in the first half. While Governor Holcomb [recently stated](#) he is “hellbent” on putting the mandate back into the bill, the task is expected to be an uphill battle in the House.

Lastly, [SB 2](#) joined [HB 1007](#) as the only bills to have been signed into law by Governor Holcomb already. [SB 2](#) will ensure Indiana schools and teachers will not face penalties stemming from low student scores on the state's new ILEARN exam.

What's Next?

The pace will pick up exponentially heading into next week, with a full committee schedule already released with several high-profile pieces of legislation. The House and Senate will each celebrate President's Day on Monday, Feb. 17 by reconvening at 1:30 PM. As always, head to iga.in.gov to watch session live.

Priority Legislation Attached

For more information



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