

# THE SENTINEL



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## INCPAS Legislative Update: Week 2

All the bills have been assigned to committees. By close of business today all bills will have been reviewed and placed on our tracker.

[HB 1327](#) was scheduled to be heard this past Thursday. The bill will be rescheduled for a later date, likely next Thursday.

There are ongoing discussions with stakeholders and Sen. Baldwin regarding [SB 2](#), the PTE tax. INC PAS lobbyists met with Sen. Baldwin this past week, he intends to move the bill. It has not been scheduled for hearing at this time. INC PAS PTE work group continues to review the legislation.

Several bills in tracking status are dealing with the Professional Licensing Agency. There are no significant threats in any of those bills. Once all bills have been reviewed we will have a full understanding of the legislation in the licensure space.

## Senate Agendas

The Indiana Senate Republican Caucus announced their agenda for the 2023 Legislative Session last week. President Pro Tempore Roderic Bray (R- Martinsville) and members of the caucus announced an agenda that includes planning for Indiana's future fiscal responsibility, expanding mental health and public health infrastructure, lowering healthcare costs, increasing public safety and support for Indiana's law enforcement, and protecting the data privacy of Hoosiers.

It is no surprise that the Senate Republicans remain focused on maintaining the fiscal health of the state as Americans face raising inflation rates. Over the past few sessions, Senate Republicans have focused on healthcare costs. A trend that will continue after the Governor's Public Health Commission released its public health study just before session. The Senate's priorities can be found in Senate bills one through eight and [Senate Joint Resolution \(SJR\) 1](#). SJR 1 proposes to amend Indiana Constitution to allow the denial of bail to a criminal defendant if the suspect poses a "substantial risk to the public." Currently, only those charged with murder can be denied bail.

The Indiana Senate Democrats released their 2023 legislative agenda that prioritizes families, futures, and freedoms. Ironically, it includes several items from Governor Holcomb's (R) legislative priorities. Their agenda includes increased access to childcare, a paid family leave program, decreasing healthcare costs, increased funding for K-12 to account for teachers' raises and operational costs, eliminating textbook fees, automatic student enrollment in the 21st-Century Scholars Program, recovery of reproductive freedom for Hoosier women, decriminalizing marijuana, protecting same-sex marriage, and a Constitutional amendment to allow ballot initiatives.

## House Agendas

Speaker of the House Todd Huston (R-Fishers) announced the House Republicans' agenda by stating a promise to serve Hoosiers and accelerate growth. The priorities are to maintain fiscal responsibility, lower costs and improve

services while empowering students and families can be found in House Bills (HB) 1001 - 1009. The agenda includes: investments in mental and public health, increasing support to low-income women and children, launching the READI 2.0 fund, school funding, reconceptualizing work and education through experience-based learning, addressing housing needs, and supporting a diverse energy plan that is reliable and affordable.

Minority Leader Phil GiaQuinta (D-Fort Wayne) announced the House Democrat priorities to the House of Representatives reiterating his party's commitment to "Hoosiers first" in 2023 by focusing on public health and education. While his caucus believes that HB 1001 sufficiently funds public health, he spoke to their desire to do more to ensure an excellent education in Indiana.

While all four caucuses presented their agendas, it is important to note that Republicans hold supermajorities in both the House and the Senate.

### **House Ways and Means Budget Hearings**

During the first weeks of the legislative session, state agencies present their budget requests to the House Ways and Means Committee in hopes of being funded at the level they deemed necessary.

#### **Office of the Attorney General**

Seeking to modernize outdated technology, the Attorney General's Office asked for \$600,000 for a document management system, \$128,150 for a latitude payment portal to improve collection tracking, \$35,000 for access Indiana integration, and \$2,285,105 for their case management system, a request totaling \$3,048,255.

#### **Indiana Supreme Court**

The Indiana Supreme Court requested \$17 million to continue the Court's investment in e-filing and technology.

#### **Indiana State Police**

The Indiana State Police supported the Governor's proposal shortening the length of service required to earn benefits and the supplemental pension as well as funds for recruiting and raising state trooper starting salaries to \$70,000.

#### **Indiana Department of Corrections**

The Department of Corrections requested \$800 million for the Westville Correctional Facility rebuild, \$79,648,530 for increases in wages and programs, contractual CPI increases at \$129,071,720, and utility increases at \$4,093,703. Their total budget request is \$1,012,813,953.

#### **Indiana Department of Transportation**

The Indiana Department of Transportation's proposed budget asks for \$4.416 billion for work zone safety, inflationary adjustments, accounting for supply chain issues, and increased programs, projects, and grants.

#### **Family and Social Services Administration**

The Family and Social Services Administration's main budget focuses were addressing the costs of aging, mental health care, and increased access to childcare. Increase state appropriation to meet the federally required state match for CCDF and minimize the waitlist for families and allow for required changes to provider reimbursement rates.

#### **Department of Health**

The State Department of Health requested a total of \$635.6 million for salary changes, equipment updates, HIV/AIDS programming, construction of a center for the deaf and hard of hearing, creation of a cancer registry, increased support for maternal, child, and infant health, and increased funding to combat tobacco use.

#### **Department of Child Services**

The Department of Child Services requested funding for nonprofit providers, a foster care maintenance payment rate increase, and an indexing method to align rates with Medicaid.

**Department of Environmental Management**

The Department of Environmental Management seeks to fund technology infrastructure, clean up contaminates sites, increase staff, meet air quality standards, and navigate changing PFAS regulations.

**Department of Education**

The Department of Education requested funding to support literacy and STEM efforts, meet staffing needs, increase school safety and mental health support, and provide tuition support including eliminating textbook fees, create early literacy achievement grants, and fund the Indiana English support program and special education programming.