

Legislative Information

The following legislative information was presented by Dr. Frank Bush, Executive Director of the Indiana School Boards Association in an email to superintendents on January 18, 2010.

On Wednesday, January 13, 2010, several legislative committees met, those that heard education-related bills were:

House Education Committee, 1:30 pm, room 156B, met hearing and taking action on—

HB 1117 Funding of adult education. Provides an adult education grant to school corporations as part of the state tuition support distribution. Adds the adult education appropriation for state fiscal year 2010-2011 to the state tuition support distribution appropriation for state fiscal year 2010-2011. Repeals a provision that permits a surplus in a tuition support distribution appropriation to be used to fund adult education. Effective: July 1, 2010. Moseley , Bartlett , Klinker

Those testifying for HB 1117 were Adult Education Assn, ISBA (also for IAPSS) and ISTA. There was no opposition. The bill passed 6-4. The Associations' position was that Adult Education Funding would be better protected as state tuition than as the present categorical grant, which was cut by IDOE in 2009 by 9%.

HB 1168 High school athletics. Provides that the case review panel that hears cases relating to disputes over the application or interpretation of rules governing interscholastic high school athletics may take action by the affirmative vote of a majority of the panel members present at a meeting if a quorum of the panel is present. (Under current law, an action of the panel requires the vote of five of the nine members of the panel.) Provides that a parent may take legal action regarding a dispute over the application or interpretation of the rules only after the panel has issued a decision on the case. Requires the panel to issue a written decision on a case not later than 14 days after the panel hears the case. Provides that a parent who disagrees with the panel's decision may file a legal action to review the panel's decision not later than 45 days after the panel issues its decision. Makes other changes. Effective: July 1, 2010. Grubb, Turner, Porter

The Associations did not take a position on the bill. It passed 10-0.

HB 1135 Advanced placement exams. Requires state educational institutions to grant postsecondary level academic credit to students who receive a satisfactory score on an advanced placement examination. Effective: July 1, 2010. Porter

Those testifying for HB 1135 were IUSA, ISBA (also for IAPSS) and IDOE. There was no opposition. The bill passed 11-0. The Associations' position was that if students demonstrated academic knowledge and skills, then they should be permitted to receive credit for the course.

House Education adjourned at 3:00 pm and will meet again on Wednesday, January 20.

Senate Education and Career Development, 1:30 pm, room 233, met and heard the following (because ISBA was representing the Associations in House Education written positions on the Senate bills were given to the Chair which he shared with the committee)—

SB 133 Student instructional time. Provides that a school corporation shall conduct at least: (1) 900 hours of instructional time for students in grades 1 through 6; and (2) 1,080 hours of instructional time for students in grades 7 through 12; in at least 180 student instructional days. Provides that a school corporation that conducts at least: (1) 910 hours of instructional time for grades 1 through 6; and (2) 1,092 hours of instructional time for grades 7 through 12; and has a contract with the school corporation's certificated employees that provides for fewer than 183 teacher days may dismiss students for not more than four hours each grading period to conduct parent-teacher conferences. Modifies the formula for determining the reduction in the August tuition support distribution to a school corporation that fails to conduct the minimum number of student instructional days during a school term. Effective: July 1, 2010. Holdman The Associations support SB 133.

SB 166 Dues for educational service centers. Allows school corporations to pay educational service center dues from any school corporation fund. Effective: July 1, 2010. Leising, Kruse The Associations support SB 166.

SB 226 Suicide prevention training for school personnel. Allows a governing body to adjourn its schools to allow teachers to participate in a basic or inservice course of education and training on suicide prevention and the recognition of students who are considering suicide. Provides that after June 30, 2012, an individual may not receive an initial teaching license unless the individual has completed training on suicide prevention and the recognition of students who are considering suicide. Requires the department of education to consult with organizations, such as the Jason Foundation, that have expertise in awareness and prevention programs for the prevention of youth suicide in developing programs for use by school corporations and teacher education programs. Effective: July 1, 2010. Miller The Associations support SB 226.

The Chair announced that he would not take a vote on bills that received testimony at the hearing but would place them for vote at the next meeting. The Senate Education and Career Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 20.

Committee Meetings Posted on January 14

Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy January 19, 8:00 AM, Room 431

Hearing :

SB 0238 Public depositories. Hershman

SB 0239 Property tax matters. Hershman

SB 0253 Constitutional amendment ballot language. Kenley

SB 0250 Streamlined sales and use tax agreement. Kenley

SB 0337 Local government merger and cooperation. Head

SB 0401 Petitioners and remonstrators for local debt. Yoder

Senate Appropriations January 21, 9:00 AM, Room 431

Hearing :

SB 0272 Gary airport authority. Tallian, Kenley

SB 0223 Mortgage deduction. Holdman

SB 0294 Disproportionate share hospital providers. Merritt

SB 0309 School corporation expenditures. Alting

SB 0405 Gaming matters. Alting, Kenley