

Session Off to Fast Start



First Week Summary

The lazy interim came to an abrupt end this week as lawmakers reconvened Wednesday for the 2018 session of the Indiana General Assembly. Nearly 500 bills were filed and released publicly in just a three day span and the week ended today with the Senate bill filing deadline. It's likely we'll see one last file list from the Senate; House members have until Tuesday to file legislation.

Senate committees wasted no time getting right to work and have scheduled a full-load of committees for next week. No committees met in the House and only two have been scheduled so far for next week, but more hearings can be announced Monday from the floor.

House Republican unveiled their 2018 agenda. The focus will be similar to that of Senate GOP and Gov. Holcomb with attention on workforce development topping their plan. Plugging a hole in education funding will also be considered.

The largest block of single-issue legislation is focused on attacking the addiction epidemic in the state. Legislation has been filed to expand access to treatment, increase the number of providers, require more money be spent on prevention and stiffen criminal penalties for drug use and go after dealers when a person overdoses. Those bills are spread out amongst a number of committees and will dominate the conversation all session.

As promised, Sunday alcohol sales legislation is the top priority in the Senate, and was filed as Senate Bill 1.

A bill was filed to make legal assisted suicide for terminally ill patients.

Jeff Sessions may have dampened the legislature's enthusiasm to debate medical marijuana; the U.S. Attorney General reminded states on Thursday that marijuana use is still illegal at the federal level and could be enforced.

Newly appointed Senate Insurance Chairman Chip Perfect got right to work, scheduling a hearing next Thursday for a few weighty health insurance issues.

A proposal to eliminate township government for units with fewer than 1,200 residents may be the best shot in years at eliminating a piece of township government.

Important Dates

January 5, 2018

Senate Bill Filing Deadline

January 9, 2018

House Bill Filing Deadline

February 5, 2018

Third Reading Deadline in the House

February 6, 2018

Third Reading Deadline in the Senate

March 5, 2018

Third Reading Deadline in the House

March 6, 2018

Third Reading Deadline in the Senate

March 14, 2018

Sine Die



Doriot Files ISPLS-Supported Legislation

State Senator Blake Doriot (R-Elkhart) filed Senate Bill 197, entitled “Various Property Issues.” The bill was developed in consultation with the ISPLS Legislative Committee. Civil Law Committee Chairman Randy Head (R-Logansport) has committed to hearing the bill in the coming weeks.

The bill addresses multiple issues. First it closes a perceived loophole related to adverse possession claims and legal surveys. The bill also adds the name of a surveyor who prepared a legal description by amending the Recorder’s statute. It updates technical language to the state plan coordinates statute so it now considers GPS. Finally, it requires that INDOT mark the lines and corners of any right of way acquisition in limited circumstances.

The legislature has until the end of January to consider legislation and move it out of committee. This is a short session so it will move fast, we’ll keep you updated on a weekly basis with progress on this and other legislation.

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