

## Coming Out of Turn Three

It's Daytona 500 Weekend! But I'll spare you racing metaphors in this week's update. You're welcome. 🏁

The Indiana General Assembly wasted no time getting to work this first week of a very short second half of the legislative session. Over 300 bills remain alive but that list is shrinking rapidly. With the exception of the finance committees, regular committees have only two more opportunities for hearings. The chance to move legislation is limited, which will result in many bills not making it to the finish line.

Much of the week was spent assessing what issues remain and what work needs to be done in the next two weeks to finalize legislation before March 1 deadlines. There is cause for optimism that session may end early on March 9.

The Indiana Senate added a new member this week. Brian Buchanan, a Republican from Boone County, was seated by the senate Monday two weeks after he won a contested caucus by just one vote. He replaces long-time senator Brandt Hershman, who retired on January 2 of this year.

Election news was front-and-center this week as well. Last Friday was the filing deadline to run for office this year and there are a TON of people running for offices from U.S. Senate to the statehouse. There are 70 people running for congress across both parties and nine congressional districts. Of the 125 state legislative seats that are up for election, 92 are controlled by Republicans. But Democrats have candidates who have filed in a large majority of districts, a full 103 of the 125 seats. Hold on to your wallets.

But the biggest news of the week was the announcement by Senate President David Long that he is planning to retire after the election. He is not up for election this year so he will need to resign and a caucus of precinct committeemen will replace him. Long has served in the senate for 22 years, serving the last 12 as president. Earlier this year, Sen. Hershman's retirement caused a shuffling of leadership posts, giving rise to Senators Holdman, Bray, and Brown into leadership positions. Long's departure on November 6 will bring more change in leadership and create an opportunity for more members to rise through the ranks. There's no early indication of who the frontrunner might be for senate's top post.



### Important Dates

#### **March 5, 2018**

Third Reading Deadline in the House

#### **March 6, 2018**

Third Reading Deadline in the Senate

#### **March 14, 2018**

Sine Die



## Professional Licensing Bill Scheduled for Hearing

A bill requiring certain reports by licensed professional is scheduled for a hearing in the House. SB 399 requires analysis of new rules and regulations to include the financial impact on small businesses and licensed professionals. In some cases licensed professions would be required to cover the cost. The authors of the bill have committed to exempt out professionals such as engineers and surveyors. The bill is scheduled for a hearing on Tuesday morning, and we will work to exempt surveyors from this legislation.

## Surveyor-Supported Bill to be Heard in House Committee

The House Judiciary Committee on Monday February 26 will consider SB 197. The bill amends several parts of the surveyor practice act. It requires that the caption of the legal description identify the surveyor who prepared it and what survey it was based on when it is recorded. In addition, the state plane coordinate statute does not currently recognize the modern processes surveyors use. For example, it does not contemplate the existence of GPS. So SB 197 updates these parts of the code to better reflect the accepted standards for the practice of surveying. The bill is authored by Sen. Blake Doriot, who is a former county surveyor and member of the ISPLS legislative committee.



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