



Session – Week 13
April 4, 2025

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Indiana Outdoor Management Association

Click here for current Bill Track:

<https://tinyurl.com/IOMA2025>

Week 13 included several committee hearings and several concurrence resolutions. If a Senate bill passes the House or a House bill passes the Senate with amendments, it will return to its originating chamber. The author can decide whether to file a motion to concur with (accept) or dissent to (reject) the amendments. The Indiana Constitution requires that all legislation be voted on and approved by both chambers. Therefore, the originating chamber must vote on the amended language, thereby concurring with the amendments. The leaders in both chambers must then sign the bill, which usually takes a couple of days to collect, and then it will be sent to the Governor.

If the author dissents, then the leaders of both chambers assign a conference committee consisting of four members (conferees)—usually one from each caucus, including the author and the sponsor—to find a compromise supported by both chambers. See the chart on the last page of this report for a detailed description of the process. A handful of dissent motions have been adopted, but no conferees have been assigned. We expect to see the first conferees assigned next week.

The next three weeks will be full of activities to conclude the session. Next week, the Senate Appropriations Committee will hear and pass its version of HB1001, the budget, which the full Senate will consider the following week. Next week is also the last week for House Bills in the Senate and Senate Bills in the House to be heard and voted out of their assigned committees. April 15 is the last day for House Bills to pass the Senate and Senate Bills in the House. The state will release the revenue forecast on April 16. The forecast is the anticipated revenue for the state over the next two years, based on economists' analysis of state and national policy and trends. It is a significant factor in determining the total budget's final amount. By law, the legislature cannot go any later than Midnight on April 29, but we anticipate the final day will be April 24 or 25. We will be there to monitor it all and keep you updated. You can also view the latest status of your bills by clicking the link above.

HB1531-Various Immigration Matters, authored by Rep. J.D. Prescott (R-Union City), prohibits employers with ten or more employees from knowingly or intentionally recruiting, hiring, or employing an unauthorized alien after June 30, 2025. Violation could result in a total or temporary suspension of an employer's operating or business license (i.e., pesticide applicator). Our concern, to which we testified in the House Judiciary Committee, is the vagueness of the process of how the Attorney General's (AG) office initiates an investigation, and that, whatever the method of initiating, rival companies or individuals could use it to harass member companies.

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The AG's office met with us and promised to work with us if it passes to ensure fair implementation. The AG's authority to investigate stems from their broad power to enforce the laws under their jurisdiction and issue Civil Investigative Demands (CID). If, based on the information provided by a CID, they have reason to believe (i.e., probable cause) that a violation has occurred, they may bring an action in court. If the Court finds, by a preponderance of the evidence (i.e., it is more likely true than not), it may order any of the penalties the bill provides, including suspending a business's license.

The AG's office may become involved in various ways. They believe that, due to the discretion they show in their other enforcement activities and their limited personnel, they will not unnecessarily harass businesses. Examples of how the AG's office becomes engaged in other enforcement activities include complaints submitted to a portal, like the Consumer Protection Division, which investigates instances of fraud and abuse directed toward consumers. The office receives many complaints, but few result in any further action, because the information submitted does not indicate that the activities rise to the level of fraud or abuse and don't warrant additional investigation. However, if the information in the complaint is sufficient to show abuse or fraud, the CID process discussed above may be initiated.

Public information and media are another possible way. One of the Labor Trafficking Division's cases was initiated based on media reports of an overcrowded apartment complex in Cass County. Inhabitants were living in apartments that far exceeded occupancy limits and had no access to transportation-- conditions that often accompany labor trafficking. The division issued a CID to the local Health Department, which discovered and reported the situation, to gather more information.

We've relayed our concerns to Sen. Liz Brown (R-Fort Wayne), the chairwoman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, to which the bill was assigned. It will die if she chooses not to hear the bill before the committee deadline on April 10. Her committee meets on Wednesday, and as of this writing, she has not posted an agenda. It is worth noting that her committee did not meet this week, which may be an indication that she does not intend to meet again.

We have heard that the Governor's office supports certain sections of the bill, but we are unsure if this includes the section concerning the hiring of unauthorized aliens. Most of the bill is focused on authorizing local and state agencies to enforce federal immigration laws—a policy on which the Governor campaigned. If there is any movement, we will continue to work with the Senate and maintain our lines of communication with the AG's office.

This week, we continued our support for Syngenta, amending a law passed in 2024 that prohibits Indiana institutions from transferring intellectual property, including data, to entities owned, operated, or controlled by foreign adversary governments. Purdue College of Agriculture conducts public research using products from Syngenta. Syngenta has a Chinese investor with a controlling interest. China is considered a foreign adversary, so Syngenta is a business controlled by a foreign adversary under the law. We continue to work with Syngenta's lobbyist and legislators to garner support for amending a bill that would enable and facilitate research and collaboration.

Six major healthcare bills will have a profound impact on the state of Indiana if they become law.

[HB 1003](#), authored by Rep. Brad Barrett (R-Richmond), aims to strengthen Indiana's Medicaid program through better oversight, fraud prevention and public transparency. It gives the state's Medicaid fraud unit new tools, including access to data from other agencies and the ability to designate investigators as law enforcement officers. Health care providers will be required to publicly share clear and comparable pricing information for commonly used services. And managed care entities must establish ways to track and evaluate the performance of Medicaid managed care plans. The bill passed out of the Senate Health and Provider Services committee 12-0 and was recommitted to the Appropriations Committee.

[HB 1004](#), authored by Rep. Martin Carbaugh (R-Ft. Wayne), aims to place new cost controls on nonprofit hospitals. The bill introduces a new facility fee excise tax for charges that exceed 265% of the Medicare rate. In addition, if a nonprofit hospital charges more than 300% of its Medicare rate for any service, it may lose its nonprofit status—though it can later reapply. The bill

also mandates annual reporting of charges and financial data, plus public sharing of IRS filings to improve transparency. The bill passed out of the Senate Health and Provider Services committee 10-1 and was recommitted to Appropriations.

[HB 1666](#), authored by Rep. Julie McGuire (R-Indianapolis), requires health care entities to disclose information about who owns or controls them. While ownership details are kept confidential, they must be shared with key state agencies to help the state monitor how mergers and acquisitions may impact competition, access to care, or health care costs. The bill passed the Senate on March 25 46-1.

[SB 2](#), authored by Sen. Ryan Mishler (R-Mishawaka), was amended to restrict advertising for Medicaid-related advertising, but allows entities to indicate their participation in the Medicaid program.

It requires state agencies to regularly verify recipients' eligibility. The bill allows for retroactive presumptive eligibility for 30 days.

It implements work requirements but includes various exemptions. The bill passed out of Ways and Means as amended 16-7.

[SB 118](#), authored by Sen. Ed Charbonneau (R-Valparaiso), increases oversight of the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program, which allows certain hospitals and clinics to purchase outpatient prescription drugs at discounted prices to support care for underserved patients. It requires these providers to report data on how much they spend and save through the program. The Indiana Department of Health will compile this information into an annual public report to help lawmakers and the public understand how the program is being used. The bill passed the House 91-1.

[SB 480](#), authored by Sen. Tyler Johnson (R-Leo), simplifies the process patients and doctors must go through when insurers require prior approval for treatments. It sets clearer rules for when and how insurers can deny coverage and ensures those decisions are based on medical expertise. It also prohibits insurers from rejecting claims simply because a provider is out-of-network. The bill was heard and held in last week's House Insurance Committee.

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2025 UPCOMING DEADLINES

HOUSE: Senate Bills

Committees: Thursday, April 10, 2025
2nd Reading: Monday, April 14, 2025
3rd Reading: Tuesday, April 15, 2025

SENATE: House Bills

Committees: Thursday, April 10, 2025
2nd Reading: Monday, April 14, 2025
3rd Reading: Tuesday, April 15, 2025

HOUSE & SENATE

Anticipated Sine Die: Thursday, April 24
Statutory Sine Die: Tuesday, April 29

The Corydon Group

2025 Legislative Team

CHRISTOPHER M.
GIBSON, ESQ.
Managing Principal

MORGAN E. PERRILL
Senior Vice President
AMELIA D. MCCLURE,
ESQ.
Vice President

RYAN P. KENNEDY
Manager, Communications &
Policy

RACHEL M. GIBSON
Senior Vice President

TRISTAN M. FRIEDERCH
Legislative Intern

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Senior Advisor

J. CAMERON CARTER
Vice President

KIMBERLY S. WILLIAMS
Senior Advisor
GRACE A. SARRAZIN
Legislative Intern

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

The conference committee process is the process of reconciling bills to guarantee that every piece of language receives a constitutional majority vote in both chambers before it becomes law. Please see the graphic below which helps explain the conference committee process.

