



Session – Week 2  
January 17, 2025

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

*The Corydon Group*  
— FIRST IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS —

## Indiana Outdoor Management Alliance

*Click here for current Bill Track:*

<https://tinyurl.com/IOMA2025>

Week two began with the inauguration of Mike Braun as the 52<sup>nd</sup> governor of Indiana. Braun was inaugurated along with Lt. Governor Micah Beckwith for his first elected office and Todd Rokita for his second term as Attorney General. The legislature also released the rest of the bills for the year. We have done a cursory review of all the bills and updated your tracking list, which can be accessed anytime by clicking the link above.

HB1184—State Chemist, authored by Representative Steve Bartels (R - Eckerty), moves the office of the Office of the Indiana State Chemist from the control of the Purdue School of Agriculture to become a division of the Indiana Department of Agriculture in 2027. The bill moves all the functions and requirements currently undertaken by the OISC, including the law (IC 15-16-5-43), which requires the OISC to “organize and conduct programs of instruction in areas of knowledge.” The bill establishes the Pesticide Use and Application Fund to perform the functions of the OISC, which will be housed at the Department of Agriculture. I confirmed with the author that the Purdue Pesticide Program can continue. I will seek an amendment to clarify and confirm the program’s continuation if necessary.

SB123-Unemployment Compensation, authored by Senator Scott Alexander (R - Muncie), reduces the maximum amount of regular unemployment benefits. It was heard in the Pensions and Labor Committee on Wednesday but was held for further discussion. The rationale behind the bill is that many Hoosier employers are starving for workers, but many people are still unemployed; by reducing benefits, we will incentivize unemployed workers to fill a needed job. The committee asked questions about how Indiana compared to other states.

If enacted as written, the bill could negatively impact seasonal employers. Seasonal employers pay higher unemployment taxes because they can only provide seasonal employment. Their seasonal employees collect unemployment benefits during the off-season. The bill is intended to incentivize

unemployed people to seek new employment quickly, making them unavailable when the hiring season returns. We will continue to watch.

Stephen M. Wolff, Esq.

The Corydon Group

[swolff@thecorydongroup.com](mailto:swolff@thecorydongroup.com)

317.956.4606

## Senate Republicans' 2025 Legislative Agenda

Medical cost-cutting and fiscal oversight are on Senate Republicans' minds session. In their [2025 Legislative Agenda](#), Senate leadership outlined their key issues.

The top bill on their agenda, [SB 1](#), tackles property tax reform by amending the homestead standard deduction amount.

Both [SB 2](#) and [SB 3](#) focus on health care, with SB 2 increasing oversight of Medicaid and SB 3 reforming the Healthy Indiana Plan to ensure healthcare intermediaries act in the best financial interest of their clients.

Responsible management of water resources is a priority this session. [SB 4](#) requires a utility company to receive a "certificate of public convenience and necessity" from the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission before the use of long-haul pipelines and to obtain a permit from the Department of Natural Resources before transferring water outside of a basin.

[SB 5](#), which focuses on government efficiency, requires state agencies to report to the budget committee before requesting additional federal funding. The legislation also allows the use of artificial intelligence in preparing information for the state budget.

## Senate Democrats' 2025 Legislative Agenda

The top issues for Senate Democrats during this session are healthcare, housing, and education. They seek to end wage garnishments and property liens while capping interest rates and protecting insurance appeals.

Senate Democrats are proposing a minimum \$65,000 salary for K-12 teachers and to eliminate waitlists for childcare by increasing the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF).

The caucus also looks to strengthen tenant rights by preventing utility companies from shutting off services on Fridays, weekends, or holidays and requiring a 60 days' notice before property sales.

## House Republican 2025 Legislative Agendas

On Tuesday, January 14, House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers), announced the house republican's legislative priorities. The Republican agenda focuses on balancing the budget, streamlining government, and reducing costs.

The first ten House bills of every legislative session are reserved for the priorities of the House majority.

HB1001, the annual budget bill, will be a major focus as Republicans strive to pass a balanced budget that invests in education and infrastructure

without raising costs for taxpayers.

[HB1002](#), sets out to clean up and clarify the Indiana Code regarding education, removing 70 provisions with the intent to deregulate schools and returning some decision-making back to local communities.

[HB1003](#) addresses transparency issues in health care billing and pricing. It also allows investigators in the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit to act as state law enforcement.

## House Democrat's 2025 Legislative Agendas

On the first day of session, January 8<sup>th</sup>, minority leader Phil GiaQuinta (D-Ft. Wayne) spoke on the House floor about the Democratic Caucus's 2025 "Working Hoosier Agenda," which focuses on cutting the cost of living for working people.

House Democrats are concerned with housing and health care costs this session, the caucus aims to provide property tax relief, increase the availability of affordable housing, cap insurance premiums, and put an end to the FSSA childcare waitlist.

The caucus also stressed their focus on public education and public safety, supporting fully funded public K-12 education, and expanding access and affordably for pre-k while ensuring first responders aren't met with pension cuts.

## Legislative Deadlines

### 125<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

Deadline for House bill filing: January 14, 2025

Deadline to assign Senate bills to committee: January 16, 2025

State of the Judiciary: January 29, 2025

State of the State: January 29, 2025

Committee report deadlines for House and Senate bills: February 17, 2025

Second reading deadline for House and Senate bills: February 19, 2025

Third reading deadline for House and Senate bills: February 20, 2025

Crossover break: February 24-February 28, 2025

Second half of Session begins March 3, 2025

## The Corydon Group

### 2024 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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President

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J. CAMERON CARTER  
Vice President

KIMBERLY S. WILLIAMS  
Senior Advisor, Association Management

GRACE A. SARRAZIN  
Legislative Intern