

The Cope...



INCMA's Monthly Newsletter

April 2019

2019 SESSION UPDATE Legislative Session Nearly Finished

The 2019 legislative session has entered its final stages. Traditional committee work is done and conference committees have begun. During these final few days, differences between House and Senate versions of bills are negotiated. Conference committee is fast paced and can be difficult at times. Deadlines change and emotions in the chambers and hallway are running high. Below are brief updates covering those bills on which INCMA has been most active to date.

IDEM Permit Fees

House Bill 1278 currently contains language that will allow the Environmental Rules Board (ERB) to increase permit fees. This is a significant policy change in that the decision will be one made by the executive branch as opposed to the legislative branch. An initial increase is allowed by the law change. IDEM would like to fill a deficit between \$3.2 and \$5.2 million. Safe guards are built into the bill for future increases. The ERB will be limited to increasing the fees once every five years and by no more than ten

percent from the previous fee level. Some business groups are attempting to secure changes to the makeup of the ERB to include more voices for business. The major stumbling block at this point is the amount of the current deficit to be filled with the initial rulemaking. The bill was recently recalled to second reading and will undoubtedly go to conference.



Utility Receipts Tax

Senate Bill 565 recently became the home of the Utility Receipts Tax (URT) issue, which has been pursued by INDIEC this session. The URT is a tax on all utility services paid by the consumer. Over time the revenue generated by the URT has steadily increased. Seeking some form of relief for ratepayers, INDIEC has worked to secure language limiting the tax. ICMA has been supportive of this effort throughout the session. The idea is to keep

the URT steady going forward. Currently, the URT brings in about \$203 million per year. The rate will be adjusted up or down to make this constant. While this is not a cut in the tax it is an attempt to limit future increases without cutting existing revenue to the state.

Session to Conclude by End of April

By statute, the legislative session must end by April 29th. Many anticipate conclusion on the 24th or 25th to coincide with the NRA Convention coming to Indianapolis and consuming available hotel rooms. If you have questions about legislation, please contact us or go to INCMA's website for a [weekly update of our total tracking list](#).

INCMA SIGNS ONTO COALITION

INCMA recently signed onto a letter drafted by the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) urging the US Treasury Dept. to reverse a proposed rule that would make it more expensive to finance the purchase of equipment and machinery by effectively imposing tax reform's stricter

limitation four years earlier than Congress intended. [Review the letter here.](#)

ENERGY WORKSHOP TO BE HELD MAY 21

INDIEC will host a technical workshop on "Integration and Role of Green Power & Self-Supply in an Energy Policy" on Tuesday May 21. This educational program is designed for members and other interested parties. It will be held at the Alexander Hotel in Indpls. Advance registration is required and the cost is \$20. RSVP to Kay Squires, KSquires@lewis-kappes.com

2019 INCMA GOLF OUTING AND DINNER

The 2019 INCMA Member Dinner will be held Monday Aug. 26th followed by the Annual Golf Outing on Tuesday Aug. 27th. Mark your calendar and please plan to join the fellowship!

Thanks to KERAMIDA Environmental, Inc. our April Sponsor.

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