

The Cope...



INCMA's Monthly Newsletter

February 2018

2018 Legislative Session Underway

The Indiana General Assembly has passed the half-way point. Bills that have not passed their body of origin are officially dead but in practice just less likely to pass this session. Approximately four weeks remain for legislative action. INCMA lobbyists continue to monitor several issues.

Workforce Development

Legislative leaders continue to discuss ways to enhance the workforce in Indiana. Several bills have been introduced. However, legislation to deal with funding issues for workforce training will unfortunately likely be pushed off again for the budget session next year. The leading bills are [HB 1002](#) Reorganization of Workforce Funding and [SB 50](#) Workforce Development.

Infrastructure

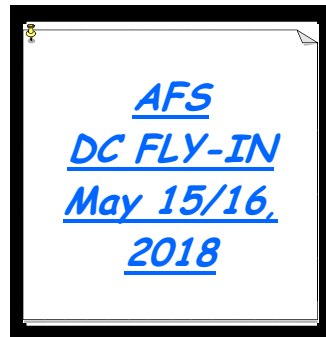
Water and wastewater infrastructure is on the minds of legislators. A House and Senate version of a bill would establish a task force to inventory and evaluate future needs. INCMA is interested in making sure that water utilities do not go the way of electric utilities using "tracker" mechanisms that increase costs. For more

information see [HB 1267](#) and [SB 361](#).

Environmental

The omnibus bill offered every year by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management continues to be the leading environmental bill this session. The bill began, as an innocuous clean up bill but is likely to pick up other issues in the later part of session. You can access [HB 1233](#) here.

Another potential amendment to HB 1233 involves IDEM's efforts to



try again to add "negligence" to the environmental crimes statute for establishing penalties in the water program. They have been seeking this change for more than a decade due to pressure from EPA. Many in industry prefer IDEM to have authority over the 404 permitting program (water discharges) but can't get there without this

change. Industry groups are leaning toward conceding after holding the change off for years.

Utility Receipts Tax

INCMA lobbyists participated in an informational hearing this week concerning the utility receipts tax (URT). INDIEC, of which INCMA is a member, has been working to urge legislators to look at some sort of reduction to the tax. The URT is a 1.4% tax paid on every utility bill. The tax is paid to the utility as part of the consumer's bill and the utility remits it to the state, at which time the money goes into the general fund. When the URT was adopted back in 2002, Indiana had some of the lowest energy rates in the US. As rates rose in Indiana, so did the tax. So INDIEC has asked the legislature to prepare to "right size" the URT in the 2019 budget session.

INCMA lobbyists will continue to review legislation and provide you with updates throughout the process [both online](#) and through email. If you have questions, please contact Blake Jeffery at incmaoffice@ameritech.net

or Patrick Bennett at patrick@pkbconsulting.net

INCMA's 2018 LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT IS SUCCESS

[INCMA's 2018 Legislative Summit](#) was a success despite a changing legislative schedule that limited some of the direct legislative meetings typically scheduled in association with the event. Attendees heard from IURC Commissioner Jim Huston, AFS Lobbyist Stephanie Salmon, IMA President Brian Burton and Brian Fennerty, Partner at Faegre Baker Daniels on topics including foundry challenges in DC, tax reform, energy issues and more. Presentations are available upon request by emailing INCMA. Special thanks to event sponsors including:

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