

# The Cope...



## INCMA's Monthly Newsletter

February 2022

### 2nd HALF OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNDER WAY

#### Rocky Start for Business Personal Property Tax

At the start of the legislative session, hopes were high for relief from the antiquated business personal property tax in Indiana. Governor Eric Holcomb announced the issue as a priority for his legislative agenda along with leaders in the House. [House Bill 1002](#) (Brown - R, Crawfordsville) was amended today in the Senate Committee on Tax and Fiscal Policy to eliminate the portions of the bill eliminating the 30% floor for depreciation on new equipment.

Senate leaders started the meeting by saying the state had a responsibility to make sure debts owed by the state were paid before spending surplus money on tax reform. INCMA's lobbyist, Patrick Bennett, testified in favor of the concept of reform for the 30% floor. During his testimony Bennett urged lawmakers to keep the discussion going on the depreciation of machinery. The language the House passed could be enhanced to afford savings to owners of existing equipment being taxed for years after purchase and installation.

The move today on HB 1002 is the first of many heading toward the end of the session. It is difficult to tell what the final product for tax reform will look like. INCMA lobbyists will continue to advocate for further tax relief.



#### Employer Vaccine Requirements

[HB 1001](#) (Lehman, R - Berne) will be heard in committee this week in the Senate. The bill provides that an employer may not require an employee to be vaccinated unless certain exemptions are in place. Employees must be able to seek an exemption for religious or medical reasons and agree to testing. The fate of the bill is uncertain. Many in the hallway have remarked that the Senate really does not have a wish list this session, making it difficult to find reason to negotiate. In general, the business community is opposed to the measure, citing need to make decisions that are

best for each employer. Vaccine opponents are not happy either since they support a total ban.

#### Solid Waste Issues Raise Some Hackles

IDEM has come under fire this session in the area of solid waste. [House Bill 1226](#) (Speedy, R - Indpls.) deals with solid waste permitting issues and the definition of solid waste in addition to a pilot program on recycling. Changes in the definition of solid waste are aimed at forcing the hand of IDEM on the subject of "legitimate reuse". For many years, IDEM has indicated it would undertake a rulemaking to address issues of concern where something considered a waste product can be used to make something else. The foundry industry is watchful of any changes to foundry sand regulation after many years of hard-fought battles on the subject. In addition to the legislation, a solid waste working group has been convened.

For questions about legislation, contact Blake or Patrick directly at 317-695-3746 / [patrick@patrickbennettlaw.com](mailto:patrick@patrickbennettlaw.com) Or go to INCMA's weekly

updated [tracking page](#)

#### LAST CALL: INCMA LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT Feb. 23rd

INCMA will host our 32nd annual Legislative Summit in-person next week on Feb. 23, 2022. in Indianapolis. Speakers include Brian Rockensuess, newly appointed IDEM Commissioner, Stephanie Salmon, AFS DC Lobbyist, Kevin Brinegar, President of the Indiana Chamber and Brian Bosma, Former Speaker of the House. [Register today!](#)

#### INCMA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The INCMA Environmental Committee met Jan. 31st and discussed numerous issues including the 2022 Session, EPA's multi sector general stormwater permit, environmental justice [maps published by ProPublica](#) and more. Committee members are meeting this week to draft comments on [IDEM's 1st Notice for the "legitimate use" rule](#).

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