

INCMA Business Issues Legislative Update



2017 Key Legislative Issues



Our Top Priorities

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / INFRASTRUCTURE

- Support establishing a long-term sustainable funding stream for the state's roads, bridges and other surface transportation infrastructure. The plan must ensure enough revenue is raised to completely fund both maintenance needs and important new projects, and that every user pays their fair share. Specific funding strategies the Indiana Chamber could support include: indexing the fuel excise taxes/fees to inflation; raising fuel excise taxes/fees; charging fees for alternative-fuel vehicles (which aren't subject to the regular fuel tax); tolling a major interstate; and dedicating all of the sales taxes on fuel to infrastructure (the current model allots a penny with the other six cents going to the state's general fund). (Note: the Indiana Chamber would support replacing the revenue lost to the general fund with another revenue source so that the general fund is left whole.)

EDUCATION

- Support the fiscally-responsible expansion of publicly-funded preschool initiatives for children from low-income families. The prospects for making significant improvements to our state's educational outcomes will remain challenging as long as large numbers of children are entering kindergarten unprepared for school. Those challenges are compounded and ultimately impact all Indiana students as schools are forced to deal with wide gaps in achievement levels. The state of Indiana needs to provide funding that will help low-income parents access their choice of preschool programs (via a mixed delivery model) that are high quality, educationally based and accountable for outcomes.
- Support suitable testing for students and accountability measures for all involved in the education process. Such measures for students, teachers and schools are critical. They allow us to accurately predict student progress, rate teacher effectiveness and compare and contrast school performance relative to state and national peers.

Econ. Dev. / Infrastructure

Long-Term Funding for Roads and Bridges

Any plan must ensure:

- enough revenue is raised to fund both maintenance needs and important new projects
- every user pays their fair share

HB 1002



Workforce Development

Program Reform and Reorganization

“The state’s workforce development programs are a muddled, bureaucratic mess in need of reform.”

[HB 1008](#)

Health Care

Strategies to Reduce Smoking HB 1578

Need comprehensive approach to reducing the state's smoking rate. Our proposal includes:

- increasing smoking age from 18 to 21
- raising the price of cigarette pack via a tax increase
- repealing special privileges for smokers
- funding a more robust smoking cessation program



Chamber is part of Alliance for a Healthier Indiana.

Energy / Environment

Water Supply

Continue working toward a statewide water policy to assure future resources and our economic future.

We've gathered data through studies and legislation; now it's time for plan development.

[HB 1519 \(Infrastructure\); HB 1344 \(Lead\)](#)



Energy / Environment

Energy Plan

SB 309

Development and implementation of an energy policy that ensures the state's continued access to adequate, reliable, affordable and cost-effective energy.

Taxation / Public Finance

Maintaining and Enhancing State's Attractive Tax Climate HB 1311

- Business personal property continues to be the tax area in which Indiana stands out most negatively
- Shouldn't trade one detrimental tax for another – like sales taxes on services
- Combined reporting is an unnecessary and ill-advised method



Taxation / Public Finance

Budget Goals

HB 1001

- Good tax structure
- Solid revenue stream
- Balanced priorities
- Adequate reserves

Perhaps even more than usual there will be a very limited amount of dollars and various entities competing for it.

Labor Relations

Work Share Program

HB 1464



- Allows employers to maintain skilled stable workforces during temporary downturns
- Employees maintain benefits
- Employers can reduce hours without layoffs
- Unemployment compensation partially compensates workers for lost hours

Labor Relations

'Ban the Box'

HB 1267 / SB 312

Chamber opposes measures that prohibit employers from screening applicants on a case-by-case basis when considering criminal background history.

Done by removing checkbox on criminal record from hiring application.

K-12 Education

Preschool Focus

HB 1004 / SB 276

Expansion of publicly-funded preschool initiatives for children from low-income families so they are better prepared for elementary school.

Three key components:

- fiscally responsible
- preschool programs that are of high quality
- a mixed delivery model



K-12 Education

Testing and Accountability

HB 1003


Chamber supports testing for students and accountability measures for all involved in the education process.

These measures allow us to accurately predict student progress, rate teacher effectiveness and compare and contrast school performance relative to state and national peers.



On the Federal Front

Executive Orders and Regulatory Onslaught

- Employment law issues
 - Environmental regulations
 - IRS
 - SEC
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On the Federal Front

- ***Reform Tax Code***
- ***Health Care***
- ***Transportation Infrastructure***
- ***Immigration***
- ***Energy***
- ***Trade***

On the Federal Front

- ***Foreign Affairs***
- ***Dodd-Frank***
- ***Entitlement Reform***
- ***Deficit/Debt***
- ***Supreme Court***

Legislative Directory App

- Available to order in December via Chamber (not app stores) at www.indianachamber.com/ldapp
- Info updated by start of session
- App access codes can be purchased in bulk for companies with many users
- Cost is \$8.99 per device; volume discounts available
- Booklet available mid-January for \$9.99

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