

# The Cope...



## INCMA's Monthly Newsletter

March 2020

### SESSION ADJOURNS FOR THE YEAR

Very late in the evening this past Wednesday the 2020 legislative session came to a close. The session was fast paced but ultimately enacted few measures impacting the industrial sector. Several retirements including the Speaker of The House will impact committee chairs prior to heading into the 2021 session. Below is a review of issue highlights from the 2020 session as lobbied by [INCMA](#).

#### Health Care Reform

Some progress to enhance health care transparency and reduce costs was made but immediate cost impacts seem elusive.

#### HB 1004 (Health Matters)

[HB 1004](#) was adopted and is intended to eliminate "surprise billing" where a patient receives a bill from an out-of-network provider in conjunction with a service provided by in-network providers without prior agreement by the patient. HB 1004 requires good faith cost estimates for procedures at least five days in advance. However, what could have led to cost savings in the near term could not be agreed upon. The House version of HB 1004 included language that would have

precluded health care providers from charging hospital prices at satellite locations but was ultimately removed due to opposition by hospital administrators. Many believe this issue will likely return in future sessions. [SB 5 \(Health Provider Contracts\)](#). An "All-Payers Claims Data Base" is established in the adopted SB 5. Health care providers will be required to disclose information about their



services and the weighted average negotiated charges for services. Additionally, health insurance providers must disclose information about fees and commissions charged. In the past, health provider contracts precluded health care service claims data from being disclosed to the employer providing the coverage. SB 5 eliminates this practice as "unfair or deceptive".

#### HB 1414 Coal Bill

One of the most controversial bills during the session was the adopted HB 1414. Supported by the coal

industry, the bill places new requirements on coal fired electric generation units that plan to shut down including notification and review by the IURC. The bill would have also required facilities to maintain a larger costly amount of coal on site but that was not a part of the final bill. Rate payers expressed concern about increased costs from artificially keeping coal fired plants in use while others focused on near and long-term reliability. Concurrently, the [21st Century Energy Policy Task Force](#), co-chaired by the bill's author, is halfway thru a two-year review of state energy issues and will send recommendations to the legislature and Governor by 12/1/2020.

#### Environmental

Spill reporting changes were a concern early but [HB 1337](#) failed to receive a Senate hearing and died. The bill would have expanded spill notification rules.

[HB 1309](#) was adopted but started out simply amending the tax code before it became a broader NPDES update and changes in wastewater treatment

operator testing bill. Industrial Waste Control Facilities (on site waste storage incident to manufacturing) are eligible for a property tax exemption. Years ago, IDEM was tasked with signing off on the exemption.

The agency wished to transfer this responsibility to local assessing officials but failed due to opposition by business. An exemption under this section is deemed to be approved if not acted upon. The remaining bill updates state law on NPDES to match the federal requirements. The bill also eliminates the requirement that IDEM administer an examination for certification of water treatment operators. Instead, IDEM must ensure the examination is available thru other sources.

A final bill list is available [online](#). Thank you to all who helped make your views known this Session.

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