

# The Cope...

INCMA's Monthly Newsletter

March 2021



## **INCMA's 2021 VIRTUAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE**

INCMA's 2021 Legislative Conference was held virtually on Wednesday March 10, 2021. While the format wasn't our preferred option, the morning was filled with excellent information from [Josh Richardson](#), Chief of Staff, Indiana Dept. of Workforce Development, Stephanie Salmon, AFS Washington Lobbyist, and Brian Burton, IMA President. [Governor Holcomb also spoke to the attendees via video](#) which is now uploaded on INCMA's homepage. Special thanks to our sponsors to date including: [B&L Information Systems](#), [Dimond Bros. Ins.](#), [Grand Industrial](#), and [KERAMIDA Inc.](#)

## **SLOW START TO SECOND HALF OF 2021 SESSION**

A considerable number of bills introduced in January failed to see any action at all or garner enough support to pass their house of origin. Hanna News Service reported that Senate Bills had a 41% survival rate compared to the 25% rate for House Bills. INCMA lobbyists continue to monitor and lobby on many bills that could

impact the foundry industry. Following are a few of the most significant issues currently seeing action in the legislature.

**COVID – 19 Liability**  
**HB 1002** and **SB 1** both provide protection from liability resulting from COVID – 19. While the bills are substantially similar, HB 1002 addresses some liability issues faced by health care providers. SB 1 was signed into law by the Governor on February 18<sup>th</sup>.



HB 1002 is ready for committee action in the Senate and is expected to focus on medical licensure issues in its final form.

**Labor and Employment Unemployment Insurance**  
– **HB 1152** seeks to provide clarity where overpayment of benefits has occurred due to fraud or failure to disclose other wages. The bill has passed the House and is scheduled for a committee hearing on

March 17.  
**Pregnancy Accommodations** – Employees may request accommodations for their pregnancy under **HB 1309**. The employer must respond to the request but is not obligated to provide the accommodations. The bill was passed out of House and is eligible for committee action in the Senate.

**Workers Compensation**  
– **SB 220** would provide an increase in benefits by 2% a year for the next 3 years. Increases have been initiated in the Senate for the last several years but not entertained in the House. The bill is awaiting a committee hearing in the House.

**Work Sharing Unemployment Benefits**  
– Two bills that would have established the sharing of unemployment insurance are now dead. They are: **SB 44** and **HB 1235**. The bills proposed that an employer, who wishes to participate, submit a program to the Department of Workforce Development for approval.

**Energy**  
**21st Century Policy Task Force** – Put in place to

discuss and develop state energy policy, the Task Force will be extended by **HB 1220**. The makeup of the group changes with this bill to include fewer lay persons and more legislators. The bill is eligible for hearing in the Senate and is expected to pass easily.

**Cost Securitization** – **Under SB 386**, utility assets not yet fully depreciated but scheduled to be taken off-line would utilize bonds for the securitization of certain qualified costs. Proponents of the bill offer that the bonding mechanism could result in overall lower cost for ratepayers. The bill will be heard in Committee on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

[Weekly interactive updates on all bills](#) being tracked and lobbied by INCMA are posted online. Members who would like to [determine who represents their district](#), [may click here](#).

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