

The Cope...



INCMA's Monthly Newsletter

May 2023

2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP UP

The Indiana General Assembly concluded its budget writing session April 28th. Beyond the budget, considerable attention was focused on health care reforms and utility matters. Below is a summary of legislation of interest to foundries.

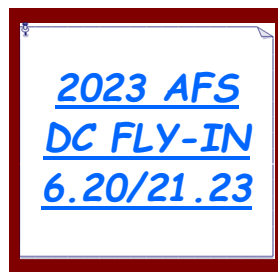
Health Care

[House Bill 1004](#) - Health care matters -

The final legislation creates the Healthcare Oversight Task Force to receive, study, and make recommendations re: hospital system prices; requires FSSA to study Medicaid reimbursement rates for all 50 states; reduces/eliminates Prior Authorization requirements (originally in [HB 1003](#)); provides tax credits for small businesses that adopt HRA's in lieu of a traditional health plan; and several other provisions to create data to drive future decisions

[Senate Bill 4](#) - Public health commission - Local Public Health initiatives get a boost from SB4 as it defines "core public health services" to be delivered locally; increases the qualification requirements for local health officers; provides

the method for allocating state funds to local health boards (funding is included in [HB 1001](#)); requires the state dept. of health to identify state and county level metrics with annual reporting on the delivery of services designed to improve performance against the metrics.



Utilities

[House Bill 1420](#) - Electric transmission facilities - one of the most significantly lobbied bills this session, cleared the final hurdles during the last week of session. The bill gives incumbent utilities the right of first refusal (ROFR) for the ownership of large transmission lines that crisscross the state between power plants. The bill passed the Senate with a 32-17 vote and the House voted to concur with the Senate amendments in a 55-39 vote, which is a closer vote than it sounds (the Concurrence motion needed 51 votes to succeed).

[House Bill 1417](#) - Utility deferred costs and accounting practices - will allow utilities to use deferred accounting to recover costs from ratepayers sooner than they previously could under accrual accounting practices. The legislation was introduced partially in response to a Supreme Court ruling last year against an Indiana utility that used deferred accounting to recover anticipated costs from ash pond disposal. The bill gives greater certainty to utilities by reducing/eliminating some financial risk; this gives rise to concerns that ratepayers will be on the hook for expenses before they are ever spent. The bill passed the Senate 33-15 and went directly to the Governor for his consideration.

Environment

[Senate Bill 155](#) - IDEM matters - The bill will allow IDEM to increase fees for Title V and Federally Enforceable State Operating Permits (FESOP) air permits and increase the base fee for both permits to \$6,100 effective January 1, 2024 (up from \$2,381) and keep existing guardrails

limiting the frequency and amount of future increases already in place. That's a wrap for this year. Thanks to all for your help!

YOUNG TO RECEIVE AFS CONGRESSIONAL CHAMPION AWARD

AFS has announced that Senator Todd Young will be presented with the AFS Congressional Champion Award at the June 20th Fly-IN event in Washington D.C. We are proud of Sen. Young and encourage members to attend the DC event as part of this year's Fly-IN. [Early registration discounts thru May.](#)

OSHA PENALTIES CONTINUE TO RISE

AFS recently outlined what to expect from OSHA in the near future and unfortunately it is likely to involve more enforcement actions and penalties. In their recent webinar, AFS listed OSHA actions at the federal level. One stat - OSHA had 750 inspectors in 2021 but 900 in 2023. [Click here for an overview.](#)

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