

Legislative Overview

Aviation Indiana has several issues we will be working on in the 2019 session. We will continue working towards fully funding the dedicated aviation fund, make changes to the procurement process and add new legislation to help airports dispose of abandoned aircraft.

Last Thursday marked the legislature's 2019 return to the State House for the "long" budget writing session of the Indiana General Assembly. Members have been introducing bills since their late November organizational meeting and will continue to do so until next Thursday's bill introduction deadline in each chamber. Several bill lists with their first reading committee assignment have been released this week and the attached list of bills are those we thought you might find of interest from those. We will continue to review the bill lists as they are released over the next couple of weeks and update the tracking lists we are following on your behalf.

We will see a few committees meet this week but won't anticipate committees getting into full swing until the week of the 14th. The legislature will continue their recent practice of convening and conducting floor activity on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays with Wednesdays reserved for committee hearings.

In addition to this week's bill filing deadlines on Thursday there are a couple of other noteworthy events scheduled to occur you might be interested in. Governor Eric Holcomb will lay out his vision for the State and agenda for the session when he gives his third State of the State address on Tuesday, January 15th. On Wednesday, January 16th Chief Justice Loretta Rush will give her annual State of the Judiciary report.

Major issues that will create a considerable amount attention and take a lot of legislative attention to address include consideration of bills dealing with penalties for hate crimes, funding shortfalls in the Department of Child Services budget, teacher retention and associated teacher salary issues, a 25th anniversary look at gaming in Indiana, relocation of Gary casinos and sports wager legalization, rural broadband issues, a long term Pacer's funding deal along with the bi-annual \$30+ billion dollar state budget. There will be pressure for Indiana to become a Supreme Court test case state by groups wanting to go further in the abortion debate as witnessed by those seeking to further restrict abortion protesting at the State House yesterday and there will also be the annual push to expand gun rights in Indiana. The marijuana legalization debate will also start to take shape as the product becomes legal in states surrounding Indiana.

The addition of Co-chairman Todd Huston to House Ways and Means due to Tim Brown's ongoing recovery from a motorcycle accident this past summer along with the retirement of Senators Hershman and Kenley add something new to the budgeting process this session as will the new leadership team in the Senate. In the House, a new leadership team is also atop the Democrat caucus.

Politically, republicans maintain their super majorities in each Chamber although by smaller margins than last year. Republican Governor Eric Holcomb enjoys a very high popularity rating in polling and recently reported having \$4 million cash on hand as he heads into what is anticipated to be a bid for re-election in 2020. We will conduct municipal elections this year with no state offices up for election.