



Friday, February 6th, 2026

Week Five Overview

The General Assembly entered a new stage of session this week, with legislation that passed third reading advancing to the opposite chamber. Committees reconvened to hear testimony and consider amendments, while floor sessions continue as lawmakers evaluate legislation moving through the second half of the process.

Please see below for additional details on committee activity and highlighted legislation from this week.

Elections

The House Elections and Apportionment Committee considered several election-related measures. **SB 25**, School Board Candidates, authored by Sen. Gary Byrne (R-Byrnevile), would clarify how school board candidates appear on the ballot when more than one candidate is running for the same seat. It would require candidates to be listed in a consistent order and alphabetically by last name, helping ensure ballots look the same across counties. SB 25 passed unanimously, 11–0. **SB 112**, Candidacy Documents, authored by Sen. Daryl Schmitt (R-Jasper), would streamline the candidate withdrawal process by allowing address updates to be made through a notice of withdrawal, eliminating an additional administrative step for county clerks. Supporters noted the bill would simplify election administration, while questions were raised regarding form completeness and clarity in limited situations. SB 112 passed, 7–4.

SB 113, Preservation of Election Material, authored by Sen. Schmitt, would extend the required retention period for certain election records from 22 months to five years as part of an effort to modernize record retention practices and align with applicable statutes of limitation. Concerns were raised regarding storage capacity, security, and cost implications for county clerks. SB 113 was held for further consideration. **SB 233**, Powers and Duties of the Election Commission, authored by Sen. Mike Gaskill (R-Pendleton) would authorize the administrative dissolution of inactive political committees with less than \$1,000 in remaining funds and unresolved reporting obligations, clarify statutory authority, and convert certain discretionary provisions into mandatory requirements. Testimony clarified that, upon administrative dissolution, any surplus funds could be transferred to specified recipients, including political party committees, candidate committees, the election division, certain tax-exempt organizations, or returned to contributors on a pro rata basis. Questions were raised regarding the bill's impact on local committees and reporting transparency. SB 233 was held.



Health

The House Public Health Committee considered several health-related measures addressing patient consent, medical debt practices, and the Family and Social Services Administration's (FSSA) operations. **SB 90**, Consent for Pelvic, Prostate, and Rectal Exams, authored by Sen. Michael Crider (R-Greenwood), would prohibit specified pelvic, prostate, or rectal examinations on an anesthetized or unconscious patient without informed consent, except in defined circumstances such as emergencies or court-ordered evidence collection. The bill would codify consent practices currently required under federal regulations, including 42 C.F.R. Part 482, and would provide for professional discipline for violations. Committee discussion focused on patient protections, provider accountability, emergency care exceptions, and the potential use of a consolidated consent form. Stakeholders testified in support, emphasizing patient autonomy and medical ethics. The committee indicated amendments are forthcoming, and SB 90 was held.

SB 225, Hospital Matters, authored by Sen. Justin Busch (R-Fort Wayne), would prohibit hospitals and debt collectors from pursuing medical debt collection while a hospital is out of compliance with transparency and reporting requirements. The bill would require the Department of Health (IDOH) to assess hospital compliance twice per year and would authorize the Attorney General to enforce violations. Additional provisions would require advance notice of hospital service reductions or closures. Testimony raised questions regarding medical debt timelines, third-party debt collection practices, and safeguards for patients during periods of noncompliance. The committee noted that amendments are anticipated to clarify these concerns, and SB 225 was held.

SB 222, Family and Social Services Administration Matters, authored by Sen. Ed Charbonneau (R-Valparaiso), would make technical and policy updates intended to improve efficiency, accountability, and clarity across FSSA programs. The bill would include changes related to Medicaid eligibility standards, oversight of mental health and addiction providers, certification authority for recovery community organizations, consolidation of disability and aging divisions, and codification of certain federal funding mechanisms. The committee adopted Amendment #2, which would allow licensed health care agencies enrolled as Medicaid providers that are in good standing to continue providing services and receiving reimbursement while Medicare certification is pending. SB 222 passed as amended, 12-0.

The Senate Health and Provider Services Committee also met this week to discuss other important health related measures. **HB 1278**, Nursing Matters, authored by Rep. Brad Barrett (R-Richmond), would allow eligible nursing programs to expand enrollment based on their capacity and resources, rather than a fixed cap, aiming to alleviate nursing shortages. The bill also empowers the Indiana State Nurses Association to recommend appointees for Board of Nursing vacancies. The adopted amendment adds a requirement for state colleges and universities to study and, by 2028, offer expedited one-year master's degree pathways in mental and behavioral health disciplines for students on specified tracks, with reporting requirements. Testimony supported the effort to reduce barriers in mental health workforce training and noted alignment with existing accrediting body standards. Concerns were raised about new mandates potentially conflicting with recent higher education efficiency reforms. The bill passed as amended 10-2.



HB 1296, Mental Health Services, authored by Rep. Garrett Bascom (R-Lawrenceburg), would establish a state certification process for “recovery residences” (sober living environments) and formalizes the role and standards for the Integrated Reentry and Correctional Supports (IRACS) program in county jails. The intent is to ensure quality and safety for court-ordered and voluntary residents, and to give judges and local officials confidence in referring individuals to these facilities. The new registry and phased certification process aims to raise standards without unduly restricting ethical operators; only facilities certified as “recovery residences” are covered. The bill does not mandate participation for non-recovery-focused group homes. Stakeholders including judges, recovery housing operators, sheriffs, mental health advocates, and organization leaders supported the bill, citing positive effects of IRACS on recidivism and the need for standards to protect vulnerable residents. The bill passed 10-0.

HB 1358, Indiana Department of Health, authored by Rep. Barrett, is a broad “agency bill” intended to enhance government efficiency and update Indiana health statutes. The bill would streamline and modernize hospital and food safety reporting requirements to reduce redundancies and better align state statutes with federal standards. It updates statutory language to reflect advances in medication delivery, nicotine use and removes the sunset from the state’s lead screening program. The bill addresses data sharing for infant and child mortality reviews. Two new medical school curricular requirements are created: rural health rotation and a nutrition education component. Provisions also set out regulatory clarifications for inspection authority between local and state health departments for small-scale wholesale food producers. Several senators sought clarification on how uniform enforcement and training are achieved across counties and expressed concern about possible costs and inconsistencies at the local level. The bill was passed 12-0 and recommitted to Appropriations.

Roads and Transportation

The House Roads and Transportation Committee passed one bill this week. **SB 13**, Motor Vehicle Equipment Requirements, authored by Sen. Blake Doriot (R-Goshen), would create a limited exception to certain motor vehicle equipment requirements for vehicle chassis that are part of a manufacturer’s work-in-progress and towed fewer than 40 miles. Proponents explained the bill is intended to modernize transportation practices in Indiana’s recreational vehicle industry by accounting for advances in braking and safety technology used during chassis transport. Industry representatives testified that the change would reduce logistical burdens during manufacturing without compromising safety. SB 13 passed the committee, 12-0.



Judiciary

The House Judiciary Committee considered two Senate bills addressing code publication and immigration-related matters. **SB 80**, Code Publication, authored by Sen. Aaron Freeman (R-Indianapolis), would resolve technical conflicts from the 2025 legislative session in Indiana Code and incorporate prior amendments for consistency and clarity. The committee adopted Amendment #1, which further addressed technical corrections. The bill passed as amended 10-0. **SB 76**, Immigration Matters, authored by Sen. Liz Brown (R-Fort Wayne), would revise provisions related to cooperation with federal immigration enforcement, court recordkeeping, employment verification, and state oversight mechanisms. Testimony indicated the bill is intended to standardize training and procedures for sheriffs and local law enforcement, improve data collection and court notification practices, and establish state-level enforcement tools related to existing immigration laws. The committee adopted Amendment #6, which would remove a “mens rea” standard related to local noncompliance, provide immunity to employees acting to enforce the law, remove blanket immunity for certain correctional facilities, adjust E-Verify applicability by removing minimum employee thresholds, and make technical and conforming changes. The committee also adopted a Chairman’s Amendment, offered by Rep. Chris Jeter (R-Fishers), which would require written notification to courts for specified actions under the bill, formalizing notice requirements and ensuring documentation is provided directly to the judiciary. Supporters emphasized the bill would enhance enforcement consistency, align state and federal standards, and improve coordination between state and local entities, while opponents raised concerns regarding community trust, due process, data collection, and potential impacts on local governments, schools, and service providers. SB 76 passed the committee as amended, 9-4.

The Senate Judiciary Committee met this week to address several bills. **HB 1035**, Permissible Unsupervised Activity, authored by Rep. Teshka (R-South Bend), would clarify Indiana’s neglect statutes to explicitly distinguish between neglect and “ordinary childhood independence.” Under the bill, a parent or guardian is not considered neglectful solely for allowing a child to engage in age-appropriate independent activities, such as walking, playing outdoors, or staying home alone for reasonable periods, unless allowing that activity constitutes recklessness and endangers the child’s safety, taking the child’s maturity and circumstances into account. The measure provides a statutory definition of “independent activity” and seeks to reduce unnecessary Department of Child Services (DCS) investigations and mandated reporter referrals based on subjective or retaliatory complaints. The bill had broad support from school leaders, the Indiana Family Institute, and the Public Defender Council, who emphasized it maintains protection for children while reducing ambiguity and process burdens for families and schools. The bill passed 10-0.



HB 1088, Technical Corrections, authored by Rep. Kyle Pierce (R-Anderson), is the Indiana General Assembly's annual technical corrections bill, which would resolve 21 minor errors, inconsistencies, and clerical issues in the Indiana Code. The bill does not make any policy changes and is intended strictly for cleanup and clarification of statutory text. The author confirmed there is no substantive effect. The bill passed 10-0. **HB 1429**, Appraiser Statue of Limitations, authored by Rep. Ben Smaltz (R-Auburn), would establish a five-year statute of limitations for civil actions against real estate appraisers. The limitation period does not apply to actions based on intentional fraud, willful misconduct, or deliberate misrepresentation. The legislation is intended to ensure claims are brought within a timeframe when records remain available and to preclude liability for long-past appraisals where documentary evidence is unavailable. Testimony indicated there is currently no limitation period, and the measure is intended to address "discovery rule" litigation arising from foreclosures or issues dating back decades. The bill is intended to operate prospectively only. The bill passed 10-0.

Education

The Senate Education and Career Development Committee met this week to consider several pieces of legislation but only passed one bill. **HB 1176**, Education Matters, authored by Rep. Jake Teshka (R-North Liberty), has multiple provisions focused on school modernization, charter expansion options, academic interventions, and parent engagement. The legislation would update the Pokagon-Indiana Education Fund to allow payments to Indiana public and nonpublic higher education institutions and workforce training programs, it would amend the innovation network charter school statute to allow charters to partner across district lines, while adding conflict-of-interest safeguards for authorizers. Further, HB 1176 would create a new voluntary pathway for school corporations to convert schools to charter status via an independent authorizer and would allow several conversion charter schools to operate under a single charter if statutory requirements are met. The bill would further adjust the complexity index calculations for corporations in multi-district innovations to prevent funding distortions. This bill would require schools to strengthen their math intervention programs, partly by notifying parents within fifteen days if a student is identified as at-risk of not meeting math grade-level proficiency. Finally, the bill would make the scholarship granting organization (SGO) tax-credit scholarship program universal by removing the prior income requirement, aligning it with current universal voucher eligibility, and reducing administrative burden. Testimony generally supported the increased local flexibility and early parent notification, while some public education advocates raised concerns regarding potential administrative duplication, the long-term fiscal impact of expanded charter options, and the further shift of public resources into the private school and charter sectors. The bill passed 7-3 and was recommitted to the Appropriations Committee.



Insurance

The Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee met this week to consider several measures addressing insurance regulation, financial services, and emerging digital asset issues. **HB 1260**, Various Insurance Matters, authored by Rep. Matt Lehman (R-Berne), would make comprehensive updates to Indiana insurance law, including establishing clearer procedures for reporting suspected insurance fraud, expanding transparency requirements for rate filings related to technology costs, and modernizing cyber and digital currency provisions. The bill would extend nonrenewal notice periods for homeowners' insurance from 20 to 60 days and auto insurance from 20 to 30 days, modify provisions affecting farm mutual insurers, clarify condominium insurance options, adjust certain Medicaid insurance rules, and authorize limited emergency action by the Department of Insurance (DOI) related to insurer solvency. The committee adopted Amendment #10, making technical and drafting corrections. HB 1260 was held for further consideration.

HB 1267, State Board of Accounts, authored by Rep. Lehman, would update appointment requirements for deputy examiners by allowing appointees to be either certified public accountants or attorneys, rather than requiring both positions to be filled by CPAs. HB 1267 passed, 6-0. **HB 1114**, Coverage for Certain Cancer Prescriptions, authored by Rep. Cherrish Pryor (D-Indianapolis), would prohibit health plans from imposing step-therapy requirements for prescription drugs prescribed to patients with metastatic or stage four cancer, including treatment for associated conditions. The bill is narrowly tailored to ensure patients can access physician-recommended treatments without delay. The committee noted potential fiscal considerations and indicated the bill would be referred to Appropriations. HB 1114 was held.

HB 1116, Virtual Currency Kiosks, authored by Rep. Wendy McNamara (R-Evansville), would establish a regulatory framework for virtual currency kiosks, including licensure requirements, consumer disclosures, transaction limits, fee caps, and enforcement authority. The bill would impose daily and monthly transaction limits, require fraud warnings and receipts, and hold property owners liable if they knowingly permit violations. Supporters emphasized consumer protection and fraud prevention, while opponents raised concerns regarding fee caps, transaction limits, and impacts on industry viability. HB 1116 was held. **HB 1042**, Regulation and Investment of Cryptocurrency, authored by Rep. K. Pierce, would allow certain public retirement and savings plans to optionally invest in digital assets, subject to fiduciary discretion and existing investment standards. Participation would be permissive rather than mandatory. HB 1042 was held. **HB 1217**, Regulation of Stablecoin, authored by Rep. K. Pierce, would establish a state framework for the licensing and regulation of payment stablecoins, requiring one-to-one backing with the U.S. dollar and allowing approval at either the state or federal level. Committee discussion focused on regulatory discretion and alignment with recent federal developments. HB 1217 was held.



Utilities

The Senate Utilities Committee met this week to discuss two bills. **HB 1002**, Electric Utility Affordability, authored by Rep. Alaina Shonkwiler (R-Noblesville), would mandate levelized utility rates for consumers. The bill aims to address concerns that consumers see major spikes in utility bills during the coldest and warmest months of the year, placing strains on Hoosiers living paycheck-to-paycheck. The bill would empower the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) to stabilize utility costs by averaging rates over longer periods, helping consumers avoid seasonal spikes. Supporters emphasized the issue of energy affordability, while others suggested a more balanced approach that considers the increased costs utility providers incur during peak months. HB 1002 passed as amended, with a recommit to the Senate Appropriations Committee, 8-0. **HB 1368**, Carbon, authored by Rep. Edmond Soliday (R-Valparaiso), would change the regulatory framework surrounding carbon sequestration. The bill aims to spur investment in carbon sequestration projects by allowing the underground storage of CO₂ in Indiana. HB 1368 would give the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) control over permitting for carbon sequestration. Supporters stressed the importance of strengthening this industry in Indiana that reduces the harmful effects of carbon. The bill passed out of committee, 5-3.

Local Government

The Senate Local Government Committee met to vote on one bill. **HB 1058**, Annexation, authored by Rep. Greg Steuerwald (R-Avon), would streamline the annexation process for Indiana towns seeking to incorporate contiguous property that is separated solely by a railroad right-of-way. Under current law, municipalities must obtain the railroad's consent before annexing land across the tracks. HB 1058 eliminates the need for railroad consent if the parcel to be annexed is otherwise contiguous to the municipality, with explicit statutory safeguards that prohibit municipalities from annexing the railroad right-of-way itself or using the rail corridor to reach noncontiguous properties. The bill does not alter other statutory prerequisites for annexation or protections for property owners; it simply exempts the railroad from the process in clearly defined circumstances. The measure was supported by representatives from major railroads and the Indiana Railway Coalition, who testified that rail lines are unique landholdings that often create obstacles for otherwise logical, voluntary annexations. The bill passed out of committee, 10-0.



Ways and Means

The House Ways and Means Committee met to discuss several bills. **SB 1**, Human Services Matters, authored by Sen. Chris Garten (R-Charlestown), would seek to counteract fraud in Indiana's welfare programs. SB 1 would require Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) to verify eligibility for Medicaid recipients twice a year and would establish immigration eligibility requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). FSSA Director Mitchell Roob testified in support, stressing the need to protect welfare programs for the vulnerable and prevent waste. Others expressed concern that these reforms will put the children of illegal aliens at risk. The bill was held. **SB 242**, Innkeeper's Tax, authored by Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle), would allow the cities of Carmel and New Haven to levy a \$5 per night tax on hotel guests. Revenue raised from the tax would be required to fund economic development and infrastructure in the two cities. The City of Carmel plans to use the potential revenue to build a new convention center. Both Carmel and New Haven testified in support of the bill. The bill was held.

SB 243, Various Tax Matters, authored by Sen. Holdman, would adopt at the state level deductions featured in Congress's One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The bill allows no Indiana state tax on tips, overtime, or vehicle loan interest for the 2026 tax year. SB 243 accomplishes this by allowing adjusted gross income deductions for up to \$25,000 in each of these categories. The bill also addresses the recent penny phaseout by the U.S. Treasury by requiring state and local taxes, fines, and fees to be rounded down to the nearest \$0.05. Sen. Holdman intends to further tweak this penny language in the coming weeks. The bill was held. **SB 4**, Various Fiscal Matters, authored by Sen. Ryan Mishler (R-Mishawaka), would require the legislative services agency (LSA) to provide a fiscal impact analysis of all executive orders issued by the Governor. The bill would also allow funds allocated to the Financial Responsibility and Opportunity Growth Fund to be temporarily allocated to the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) to address Indiana's ongoing childcare affordability issues. The bill was held.

Public Safety

The Senate Corrections and Criminal Law met this week and passed one bill. **HB 1056**, Resisting Law Enforcement Conflict Resolution, authored by Rep. Jennifer Meltzer (R-Shelbyville), addresses a statutory conflict arising from the "rule of lenity" following the passage of two bills in the prior legislative session (HEA 1014 and HEA 1637) that amended the penalties for resisting law enforcement. HB 1056 is procedural, ensuring the more severe, recently adopted penalties are applied by Indiana courts, rather than defaulting to the lesser penalty due to statutory ambiguity. The bill passed 7-0. Several other bills (HB 1040, HB 1303, HB 1025, HB 1031) were heard this week but held in committee.



Session Floor Highlights

The House's original third reading deadline of Thursday, January 29 was extended to Monday due to weather-related disruptions during the prior week. As a result, the House convened for additional floor sessions to consider legislation eligible for final passage. The bills listed below reflect House bills that passed third reading during Monday's floor session, along with final vote totals and thus remain active this session.

A complete list of legislation that remains eligible for consideration this session can be found here: [Bills for 2026 Session](#)

Bills Passed in the House:

- HB 1003, Boards and Commissions – Rep. Bartels (R-Eckerty). Passed, 67-29.
- HB 1036, Children in Need of Services – Rep. Garcia Wilburn (D-Indianapolis). Passed, 95-0.
- HB 1038, Relocation of Gaming Operations – Rep. Snow (R-Warsaw). Passed, 67-30.
- HB 1052, Various Administrative Law Matters – Rep. Manning (R-Logansport). Passed, 87-11.
- HB 1065, Ban on Gratuities for Public Officials – Rep. Slager (R-Schererville). Passed, 85-0.
- HB 1092, Child Services Matters – Rep. DeVen (R-Granger). Passed, 80-0.
- HB 1099, Foreign Adversaries – Rep. Commons (R-Williamsport). Passed, 72-23.
- HB 1122, License Plates for Former State Legislators – Rep. Bartlett (D-Indianapolis). Passed, 63-15.
- HB 1145, Thirteenth Check – Rep. Karickhoff (R-Kokomo). Passed, 96-0.
- HB 1153, Auto Dealer Matters – Rep. Manning (R-Logansport). Passed, 79-0.
- HB 1177, Child Care Assistance – Rep. Cash (R-Zionsville). Passed, 80-0.
- HB 1184, Towing Matters – Rep. Haggard (R-Mooresville). Passed, 80-0.
- HB 1200, Bureau of Motor Vehicles – Rep. Pressel (R-Rolling Prairie). Passed, 90-3.
- HB 1204, Natural Resource Entrance Fees – Rep. Hall (R-Norman). Passed, 72-6.
- HB 1210, Department of Local Government Finance – Rep. Snow (R-Warsaw). Passed, 82-1.
- HB 1242, School Corporation and Charter School Report – Rep. Yocum (R-Clinton). Passed, 84-0.
- HB 1251, Emergency Ambulance Services – Rep. O'Brien (R-Evansville). Passed, 83-0.
- HB 1268, Indiana Defense Task Force Funding – Rep. Bartels (R-Eckerty). Passed, 85-0.
- HB 1269, Unlawful Proposition Penalties – Rep. Bauer (R-South Bend). Passed, 98-0.
- HB 1271, Payment of Health Claims – Rep. McGuire (R-Indianapolis). Passed, 85-0.
- HB 1277, Long Term Care – Rep. Barrett (R-Richmond). Passed, 93-0.
- HB 1286, Military Protective Order – Rep. Lauer (R-Columbus). Passed, 93-0.
- HB 1315, Township Reorganization – Rep. Shonkwiler (R-Noblesville). Passed, 55-44.



- HB 1325, Special Education – Rep. Pfaff (D-Terre Haute). Passed, 93-0.
- HB 1329, Real Property Assessment – Rep. Clere (R-New Albany). Passed, 81-10.
- HB 1333, Land Use and Development – Rep. Culp (R-Rensselaer). Passed, 56-43.
- HB 1361, Fertilizer – Rep. Baird (R-Greencastle). Passed, 90-0.
- HB 1389, Adoption and Foster Care Matters – Rep. Lindauer (R-Jasper). Passed, 69-29.
- HB 1406, Property Tax Billing Statements – Rep. Thompson (R-Linton). Passed, 92-0.
- HB 1408, Education Matters – Rep. Behning (R-Indianapolis). Passed, 70-28.
- HB 1417, Causes of Action and Damages – Rep. Lehman (R-Berne). Passed 61-34.
- HB 1423, Indianapolis Public Education Corporation – Rep. Behning (R-Indianapolis). Passed, 68-30.

Looking Ahead

Monday, February 2 marked the final day for House bills to pass third reading in the House. With third reading deadlines now complete in both chambers; bills that advanced have moved to the opposite chamber, where they are currently proceeding through committee hearings and floor consideration. Remaining legislative deadlines for the 2026 session can be found here: [2026 Legislative Deadlines](#)

Thank you for allowing us to work with you during the 2026 legislative session. Please feel free to contact any member of our legislative team if you have questions, would like full copies of bills or amendments, or need additional information on matters pending before the Indiana General Assembly.



Please feel free to contact a member of our legislative team should you have questions regarding the happenings in the Indiana General Assembly!

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