

2017 120th IN General Assembly The 1st Session April 24, 2017 Bill Tracker “Final”

New Two Year Budget and Historical Infrastructure Funding

The Indiana General Assembly completed work near midnight Friday and despite finishing a week early, passed a new \$32 billion two year budget and history making long term funding for infrastructure.

The House voted 68-30 to pass [HEA 1001](#) Biennium budget, with the Senate voting 42-8, both along party lines, sending the 175 page-spending plan to Governor Holcomb for his approval. K-12 education takes 52% of the budget with modest increases of 1.6% in the first year 2018 and 1.7% in the second year 2019. It is structurally balanced and leaves a projected reserve of \$1.9 billion. It does not raise tobacco taxes (there is a provision to adjust retail by 1-2 cents) and although we were not successful in our funding increase for Clean Water Indiana, we did maintain our \$1 million general fund line item and current cigarette tax formula share. Thank you all for making this effort and look forward to continuing our work in the future.

In order to raise funds for roads and bridges, lawmakers voted to increase the gas tax 10 cents to 28 cents a gallon. Motorists also will pay an additional \$15 registration fee for most vehicles. It also moves all sales taxes on fuel to this effort. The plans are to be phased in and will generate \$1.2 billion annually by 2024. It includes funding for local government as well. It also includes language-making tolls on interstate highways possible in the future. HEA 1002 Transportation infrastructure funding is one of the largest funding packages in state history.

A last minute effort by the Office of the Indiana State Chemist/Seed Commissioner to insert emergency rule making authority and new definitions in the noxious weed code into HEA 1235 failed due to Senate Rules and will be taken up next session. SEA 515 Various tax issues did pass and includes sales tax exemptions on certain Ag equipment and Ag drainage tile.

For status of action on legislation passed and sent to the Governor, please click on this link below:

2017 Bill Watch Signing Actions
<http://www.in.gov/gov/2923.htm>

Bill Conference Reports are being posted and I will continue to review bills that may have impact on us. Below are bills of importance to IASWCD. *Please contact me at (317.753.9627) or chizer@inag.biz with any concerns or needs. Thank you, Cress*

Useful Links
[Contact Your Legislator](#)

TRACKING LIST

The State of Indiana has made changes to its website, including the website for the Indiana General Assembly. To view any bill in its entirety, click here: <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2017/bills/> Once there, scroll through the list of Senate and House bills filed and click on the bill you want to view. Once you are on the main page for a particular bill, you will need to click on the following options in the upper left side, which are self-explanatory:

Latest Version
Latest Fiscal Note
Bill Actions
Bill Versions
Committee Reports
Conference Committee Reports

House

- **HB 1001:** [Biennial budget.](#)
- **HB 1002:** [Transportation infrastructure funding.](#)
- **HB 1415:** [Various natural resources matters.](#)
- **HB 1495:** [Environmental management.](#)
- **HB 1519:** [Infrastructure development zone utility service.](#)

Senate

- **SB 256:** [Benjamin Harrison conservation trust.](#)
- **SB 309:** [Distributed generation.](#)
- **SB 515:** [Various tax matters.](#)

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Formula for e-mailing = S or H (for House or Senate) District number@in.gov. For example, Sen. Vaneta Becker may be contacted using the following e-mail address: S50@in.gov.

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Thank you for your help! INAg/Cress Hizer appreciates your willingness to contact legislators when called upon during the session. Without the assistance of the client/association, it would be difficult to pass proactive legislation or thwart detrimental language. Thanks for your support.