

2017 Legislative Session

Many Top Policy Goals Realized

Before the start of each legislative session, the Indiana Chamber announces its priority policies and areas of focus. These are matters that would have wide impact on businesses and citizens throughout the state.

All are tied to goals in the organization’s *Indiana Vision 2025* long-term economic development plan for the state (www.indianachamber.com/2025), which has 36 goals under four drivers: Outstanding Talent, Attractive Business Climate, Superior Infrastructure, and Dynamic and Creative Culture.

Below are the 2017 bills that contain those priority goals, their outcome and why they are good policies for the state.

You can see if your legislators supported a pro-jobs, pro-economy agenda by checking out their scores on page 23.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / INFRASTRUCTURE

Our Priority: Support establishing a long-term sustainable funding stream for the state’s roads, bridges and other surface transportation infrastructure. The plan must ensure enough revenue is raised to completely fund both maintenance needs and important new projects, and that every user pays their fair share.

Legislation: House Bill 1002 – Long-term Road Funding; signed by the Governor.

By 2024, an additional \$1.2 billion will be generated annually – \$896 million for state roads, \$340 million for local roads. All sales tax on gas will be shifted to roads, over a five-year period, beginning in 2020. HB 1002 increases the gas, diesel and special fuels tax by 10 cents (indexed annually) and implements added annual registration fees of \$15 per standard vehicle, \$150 for an electric car and \$50 for hybrid vehicles. A tolling study is also required. The payoff for everyone will be huge: improved travels with fewer delays and vehicle repairs caused by crumbling roads.

EDUCATION

Our Priority: Support suitable testing for students and accountability measures for all involved in the education process.

Legislation: House Bill 1003 – ISTEP Replacement; signed by the Governor.

In 2018, Indiana will have a new statewide student assessment to replace ISTEP called ILEARN, which is to be given during one testing window at the end of the school year. ILEARN will be a shorter test for all grades and based on Indiana standards as it should be. Much emphasis will be placed on getting the results back to teachers and parents faster so that information is factored into teaching and homework time. And critically, teacher evaluations and school A-F grades remain tied to the test scores – something on which the Indiana Chamber insisted.

Our Priority: Support the fiscally-responsible expansion of publicly-funded

high-quality preschool initiatives for children from low-income families. **Legislation:** House Bill 1004 – Pre-K Pilot Expansion; signed by the Governor.

Now, up to 15 additional counties can take part in the pilot program (20 in total) to help the most at-risk young students in their communities. The funding level approved in the budget bill (HB 1001) is for \$22 million annually, which includes \$1 million for a new online pilot. The Governor, legislative leaders and many legislators recognized that the prospects for making significant improvements to our state’s educational outcomes will remain challenging as long as large numbers of children are entering kindergarten unprepared for school. Continuing to substantially expand the state’s preschool program is vital to addressing this problem.

Our Priority: Support making the State Superintendent of Public Instruction an appointed position; the Indiana Chamber has had this objective for many years.

Legislation: House Bill 1005 – State Superintendent Position; signed by the Governor.

Effective January of 2025, the state superintendent becomes a position appointed by the Governor. This is a very positive step toward making sustained education progress in the state because our Governor – whatever party he or she represents – is the true leader of the state’s education policy and should be allowed to have a state superintendent who shares his or her education goals.

EMPLOYMENT LAW / HEALTH CARE

Our Priority: Support comprehensive

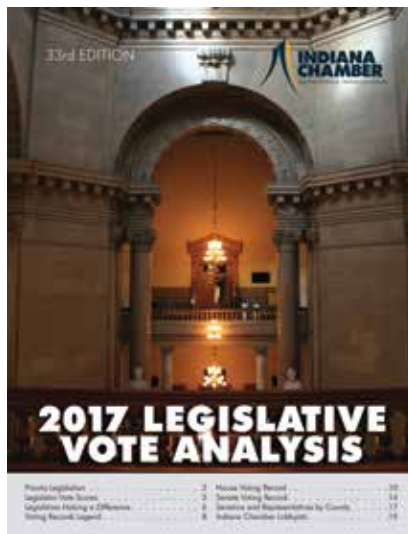
approach to decreasing the state’s smoking rate, including removal of smokers’ special protections in the hiring process.

Legislation: House Bill 1578 – Anti-Smoking Reform for Prospective Employees; passed by the House but died in the Senate.

Employers should have the option to screen potential hires for tobacco use as they are the ones who pay most of the health care coverage cost. Yet smoking remains as the only protected behavior under state law. Unfortunately, this measure wasn’t even given a committee hearing by the Senate Commerce and Technology Committee, chaired by Sen. Mark Messmer (R-Jasper); Messmer had agreed to a hearing but ultimately didn’t place it on the committee calendar and the bill died.

ENVIRONMENT / ENERGY

Our Priority: Support the development and implementation of an energy policy that ensures the state’s continued access to adequate,



The *Legislative Vote Analysis* tracks lawmakers’ voting records on pro-jobs, pro-economy legislation; 2017 scores range from 29% to 100%.

Indiana General Assembly

2017 Legislator Vote Scores

Indiana House	2017 Score	4-Year Agg. %	Indiana House	2017 Score	4-Year Agg. %	Indiana Senate	2017 Score	4-Year Agg. %
Arnold, Lloyd	77%	77%	Lehe, Don	97%	98%	Alting, Ron	85%	84%
Austin, Terri	62%	59%	Lehman, Matthew	97%	96%	Bassler, Eric *	98%	93%
Aylesworth, Mike *	93%	92%	Leonard, Daniel	100%	96%	Becker, Vaneta	57%	62%
Bacon, Ron	88%	89%	Lucas, Jim	84%	91%	Bohacek, Michael *	91%	91%
Baird, Jim	97%	95%	Lyness, Randy *	97%	99%	Boots, Philip	90%	88%
Bartlett, John	59%	45%	Macer, Karlee	63%	56%	Bray, Rodric	94%	92%
Bauer, B. Patrick	59%	48%	Mahan, Kevin	100%	93%	Breaux, Jean	29%	50%
Behning, Robert	98%	96%	May, Christopher *	90%	90%	Brown, Liz *	100%	94%
Beumer, Greg *	97%	90%	Mayfield, Peggy	88%	94%	Buck, James	95%	93%
Borders, Bruce *	81%	86%	McNamara, Wendy	97%	94%	Charbonneau, Ed	100%	96%
Bosma, Brian	100%	99%	Miller, Douglas *	97%	98%	Crane, John *	74%	74%
Braun, Mike *	100%	95%	Moed, Justin	67%	57%	Crider, Michael	88%	90%
Brown, Charlie	50%	46%	Morris, Robert	79%	85%	Delph, Michael	74%	77%
Brown, Timothy	100%	94%	Morrison, Alan	85%	91%	Doriot, Blake *	97%	97%
Burton, Woody	93%	97%	Moseley, Charles	65%	55%	Eckerty, Doug	100%	93%
Candelaria Reardon, Mara *	53%	57%	Negele, Sharon	94%	95%	Ford, Jon *	82%	87%
Carbaugh, Martin	100%	95%	Nisly, Curt *	63%	72%	Freeman, Aaron *	83%	83%
Cherry, Robert	97%	97%	Ober, David	95%	95%	Glick, Susan	81%	83%
Clere, Edward	91%	93%	Olthoff, Julie *	97%	95%	Grooms, Ron	81%	84%
Cook, Tony *	100%	96%	Pelath, Scott	53%	51%	Head, Randy	83%	80%
Culver, Wes	81%	90%	Pierce, Matt	53%	51%	Hershman, Brandt	100%	97%
Davisson, Steven	95%	91%	Porter, Gregory	55%	48%	Holdman, Travis	97%	95%
DeLaney, Edward	77%	56%	Pressel, Jim *	91%	91%	Houchin, Erin *	91%	90%
DeVon, Dale	94%	96%	Pryor, Cherish	45%	45%	Kenley, Luke	83%	89%
Dvorak, Ryan	50%	47%	Richardson, Kathy	94%	95%	Koch, Eric *	92%	92%
Eberhart, Sean	97%	91%	Saunders, Thomas	81%	83%	Kruse, Dennis	91%	94%
Ellington, Jeff *	100%	99%	Schaibley, Donna *	91%	98%	Lanane, Timothy	31%	53%
Engleman, Karen *	97%	97%	Shackelford, Robin	50%	52%	Leising, Jean	71%	82%
Errington, Sue	68%	55%	Siegrist, Sally *	100%	100%	Long, David	100%	97%
Forestal, Dan	55%	55%	Slager, Harold	97%	90%	Melton, Eddie *	44%	44%
Friend, William	90%	96%	Smaltz, Ben	94%	90%	Merritt, James	98%	96%
Frizzell, David	97%	95%	Smith, Milo	83%	91%	Messmer, Mark *	84%	84%
Frye, Randy	100%	93%	Smith, Vernon	39%	45%	Mishler, Ryan	91%	94%
GiaQuinta, Philip	66%	56%	Soliday, Edmond	100%	93%	Mrvan, Frank	49%	56%
Goodin, Terry	65%	56%	Speedy, Mike	93%	94%	Niemeyer, Rick *	84%	82%
Gutwein, Doug	97%	94%	Stemler, Steven	58%	55%	Niezdowski, David	50%	50%
Hamilton, Carey *	52%	52%	Steuerwald, Greg	97%	98%	Perfect, Chip *	97%	96%
Hamm, Richard	97%	93%	Sullivan, Holli	100%	94%	Raatz, Jeff *	100%	95%
Harris, Earl *	58%	58%	Summers, Vanessa	52%	51%	Randolph, Lonnie	29%	49%
Hatfield, Ryan *	50%	50%	Taylor, Joe *	65%	65%	Ruckelshaus, John *	91%	91%
Heaton, Robert	94%	96%	Thompson, Jeff	94%	94%	Sandlin, Jack *	91%	91%
Heine, Dave *	100%	100%	Torr, Jerry	91%	96%	Smith, James	80%	86%
Huston, Todd	100%	99%	VanNatter, Heath	88%	88%	Stoops, Mark	30%	47%
Jordan, Jack *	85%	85%	Washburne, Tom	93%	87%	Tallian, Karen	49%	56%
Judy, Chris *	78%	83%	Wesco, Timothy	88%	91%	Taylor, Greg	42%	51%
Karickhoff, Michael	100%	92%	Wolkins, David	89%	93%	Tomes, James	74%	69%
Kersey, Clyde	66%	46%	Wright, Melanie *	58%	53%	Walker, Greg	100%	93%
Kirchhofer, Cindy	100%	98%	Young, John *	90%	90%	Young, R. Michael	68%	81%
Klinker, Sheila	68%	61%	Zent, Dennis	100%	96%	Zakas, Joseph	94%	89%
Lawson, Linda	58%	53%	Ziemke, Cindy	100%	97%	Zay, Andy *	91%	91%

* Legislators with a voting record of less than four years

Full report at www.indianachamber.com/lva



Caryl Auslander, the Indiana Chamber’s vice president of education and workforce development policy, moderated a caucus leadership policy discussion at the organization’s annual Indiana Legislative Preview last fall. Senate President Pro Tem David Long and Senate Minority Floor Leader Tim Lanane were two of the participants.

reliable, affordable and cost-effective energy.

Legislation: Senate Bill 309 – Broad Energy Policy; signed by the Governor.

This is truly a compromise of long-standing issues that ratepayers have had with Indiana’s utilities and is a step forward in creating an energy policy for the state. It addresses rising energy costs and a continued struggle between the investor-owned electric utilities and larger consumers of energy. This bill expands current state law regarding cogeneration for users that generate their own energy with a capacity above 80 megawatts. It increases transparency of rates through the posting of a periodic review of rates by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission.

Our Priority: Support a statewide water policy to assure future reliable and affordable resources, our economic future and the ability to effectively compete with other states.

Legislation: Senate Bill 416 – Water Resources Infrastructure; signed by the Governor.

An integral part of a water resources strategy is the ability of the state’s water utilities to create and execute long-range plans. This bill promotes sustainability of water resources while attempting to keep costs as low as possible. Various state entities were also tasked with keeping Indiana’s public water clean and safe – precautions made to



Mark Lawrance, the Indiana Chamber’s vice president of engagement and innovation policy, provides an update at the Indiana Technology & Innovation Council’s inaugural Tech Policy Summit.

help avoid situations like Flint, Michigan. A significant part of SB 416 is the establishment of the Infrastructure Assistance Fund, which will provide grants, loans and other financial assistance for all aspects of new and existing public water systems. However, only the framework is in place; money for the fund wasn’t allocated during this session.

TAXATION

Our Priority: Support maintaining and enhancing Indiana’s attractive tax climate.

Legislation: House Bill 1129 – Online sales tax collection provision; signed by the Governor.

A provision in HB 1129 sets the stage for Indiana to collect online sales tax, subject to its ultimate resolution in the federal court or by Congress. This will not only help level the playing field for traditional brick-and-mortar stores; it will also boost Indiana’s sales tax base.

NOTE: Two policies the Indiana Chamber continues to actively engage on when needed – sales tax on services and mandatory combined income tax reporting – were not even introduced in legislation for 2017. This is in part due to our dogged efforts explaining to those interested in these matters why they are bad for Indiana’s tax climate. Sales tax on services would be very detrimental and harm our overall attractive tax structure. Separately, mandatory combined reporting is an unnecessary and ill-advised method that tasks businesses with operations in multiple states with adding together all net income for one report.

TECHNOLOGY

Our Priority: Support making technology innovation an integral part of the state’s identity.

Legislation: Senate Bill 507 – Venture capital certainty in economic development bill; signed by the Governor.

Indiana is fostering an impressive entrepreneurial spirit and becoming a technology hub in the Midwest. Our technology efforts now provide tremendous support to three of the state’s main industries: agriculture, logistics and manufacturing. We need to better support our technology successes and build on them with more policies like the provision found in SB 507. Now, entrepreneurs and businesses will have greater certainty that the Venture Capital Investment Tax Credit will be available in the long term with the credit’s expiration date of 2020 removed.