

January 5, 2018

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## 2018 Legislative Session Convenes

The 2018 Indiana General Assembly began legislative business on January 3. This session is a "short" non-budget year and the legislature must adjourn *sine die* no later than March 14. The compact timeline means committee hearings will begin immediately on key bills as the halfway point for committees is at the end of January.

House Republicans released their [legislative agenda](#) this week which focuses on supporting a funding boost for K-12 schools, strengthening Indiana's workforce, attacking the opioid epidemic and increasing government efficiency. House Speaker Brian Bosma (R-Indianapolis) said the top priority will be a boost in funding for K-12 schools to account for a higher than expected increase in enrollment at traditional public schools. The funding boost will be in addition to the \$7 billion annually Indiana currently spends on K-12 education.

New House Democratic Leader Terry Goodin (D-Austin) announced [caucus priorities](#) that include initiatives to improve the lives of Hoosier families, bring election reform to our state, and find solutions for the state Department of Child Services (DCS). Goodin said House Democrats will press their Republican counterparts and Gov. Eric Holcomb to take a more active role in investigating the problems affecting DCS that caused its previous director, Mary Beth Bonaventura, to resign because she felt the current administration was pursuing policies that will endanger children.

Gov. Holcomb has requested a thorough review of DCS. The assessment will examine whether DCS funding is being used appropriately, whether systems are in place to ensure the health and safety of children and families, if staffing levels are appropriate and how DCS' caseloads, costs and outcomes compare to those in other states.

## Sen. Hershman Retires From Indiana Senate

State Sen. Brandt Hershman (R-Buck Creek) announced he will be resigning his position on January 2, 2018, after 18 years of service

## IN THE NEWS

[Rep. Linda Lawson to Retire from House](#)

[Federal Gun Law Debate Could Impact Indiana Legislation](#)

[Rep. Nisly Introduces Full Abortion Ban](#)

[Small Townships to be Merged Under House Republican Plan](#)

## USEFUL LINKS

[Indiana General Assembly](#)

[Governor Eric Holcomb](#)

[Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch](#)

[Attorney General Curtis Hill](#)

[Secretary of State Connie Lawson](#)

[State Treasurer Kelly Mitchell](#)

[State Auditor Tera Klutz](#)

[Indiana Register](#)

in the Senate.

Hershman has represented Senate District 7 since 2000. The district currently encompasses White County and portions of Boone, Carroll, Clinton, Jasper and Tippecanoe counties.

During his tenure, Hershman has focused on tax reform as well as many economic development efforts.

Hershman authored landmark telecommunications deregulation legislation, leading to investments of over \$5 billion in telecommunications infrastructure across Indiana.

He also spearheaded efforts to cut income taxes, place caps on property taxes, repeal the inheritance tax, eliminate the business personal-property tax for half of all filers, reform property taxes for farmers, and cut taxes for corporate and financial institutions.

Hershman has also been a leader in crafting funding solutions for Indiana's transportation infrastructure. The 2006 lease of the Indiana Toll Road fully funded the 10-year Major Moves road construction program, which received national and international recognition as the biggest building program in the nation – all without new taxes or borrowing. Hershman also authored a bill in 2016 that redirected \$430 million to local governments for road and bridge improvements across the state.

In 2015 and 2017, Hershman advanced a proposed balanced budget amendment to the Indiana Constitution, which will be eligible for Hoosier voters to consider on the 2018 general election ballot.

Following his retirement from the Senate, Hershman will be a practicing attorney Washington D.C.

## Senate Republican Leadership Changes

Indiana Senate President Pro Tem David Long (R-Fort Wayne) announced several changes in Senate leadership as a result of the retirement of Senate Majority Floor Leader Brandt Hershman.

Sen. Rodric Bray (R-Martinsville) replaced Sen. Hershman as the Senate Majority Floor Leader effective Jan. 2, 2018. Sen. Bray will retain his additional role as chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle) replaced Sen. Hershman as chairman of the Senate Committee on Tax and Fiscal Policy. Sen. Holdman also obtained Sen. Hershman's position on the Senate Committee on Appropriations. Sen. Holdman relinquished his chairmanship and membership on the Senate Committee on

Insurance and Financial Institutions.

Sen. Chip Perfect (R-Lawrenceburg) replaced Sen. Holdman as the chairman of the Senate Committee on Insurance and Financial Institutions.

## 2018 Session Calendar

The House and Senate have released their legislative calendars for the 2018 legislative session. Some of the dates are shared by both chambers but there are differences in deadlines. Key dates are highlighted below.

### House

- January 3 – First day of session, 1:30 pm
- January 9 – House bill filing deadline, 2:00 pm
- January 9 – State of the State address, 7:00 pm
- January 10 – State of the Judiciary address, 2:00 pm
- January 15 – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, offices closed
- January 30 – Committee report deadline
- February 1 – Second reading deadline (fallback deadline on Feb. 2)
- February 5 – Third reading deadline
- February 27 – Committee report deadline for Senate bills
- March 1 – Second reading deadline for Senate bills (fallback deadline on March 2)
- March 5 – Third reading deadline for Senate bills
- March 6-14 – Conference committees
- March 14 – adjourn *sine die*

### Senate

- January 3 – First day of session, 1:30 pm
- January 5 – Senate bill filing deadline 4:00 pm
- February 1 – Committee report deadline
- February 5 – Second reading deadline
- February 6 – Third reading deadline
- March 1 – Committee report deadline for House bills
- March 5 – Second reading deadline for House bills
- March 6 – Third reading deadline for House bills
- March 7-14 – Conference committees
- March 14 – adjourn *sine die*

## INAAP Bill Track

Over 500 bills have been filed thus far and we are in the review process as we analyze and assess the legislation. We are compiling the ILF bill track as bills are released. This bill track can be accessed by clicking the link below.

[INAAP Bill Track Access](#)

This is a live link and any updates made to the bill track can be accessed immediately through this link. Additionally, you can view the most recent bill track at any time. The bill track also will provide the latest information related to committee hearings and any other pertinent procedural updates.

## For more information



Bose Public Affairs Group  
111 Monument Circle, Suite 2700  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(p)317-684-5400  
(f) 317-684-5432  
[www.bosepublicaffairs.com](http://www.bosepublicaffairs.com)