

Indiana Institute for Working Families

INSIDE THE STATEHOUSE



A WEEKLY UPDATE ON STATE LEGISLATION

AFFECTING WORKING FAMILIES

DATE: 02/08/2010

NEXT DEADLINE FOR ACTION: Wednesday, March 3, 2010– Last day for 3rd Reading of Bills in the second chamber.

HIGHLIGHTED LEGISLATION:

FEDERAL ALERT: The U.S. Senate will take up a jobs bill next week, intended to both create jobs and stimulate the economy. Additionally, the bill would extend both COBRA and Unemployment Insurance benefits, which will expire by the end of February. The U.S. House of Representatives already passed its jobs package in December of 2009, and the U.S. Senate needs to follow suit before these vital benefits expire. This week there will be an action alert inviting people to encourage the Senate to act on this important issue. In the coming week, the Indiana Institute for Working Families will be sending out information about how to participate in this call to action.

Indiana General Assembly:

HB 1021- This bill would make a debtor's Indiana earned income tax credit exempt under the bankruptcy property exemption statute. Current law provides only that a debtor's federal earned income tax credit is exempt property. **HEARING– Thursday, February 11, 2010, 9:00 AM, Senate Room 431**

BILLS TO WATCH

Bills	Title	Notes	Status
HJR 1 Rep. Crawford	Circuit Breakers and Property Tax Matters	Allows the property tax caps, enacted in 2008, to be brought before the voters by referendum to be amended into the Indiana State Constitution.	Ready for Enrollment
HB 1003 Reps. Riecken & Tyler	Public assistance matters and voting registration	This bill would bar the Family and Social Services Administration, and its various divisions from contracting with another person to administer or process eligibility intake for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Medicaid programs. Bill was amended to create a legislative oversight committee and to require intake personnel to offer voter registration to clients at various times during the intake Process.	Died- Lack of Action by Deadline
HB 1021 Reps. Day and Murphy	Bankruptcy exemptions; Earned Income Tax Credit	This bill would make a debtor's Indiana earned income tax credit exempt under the bankruptcy property exemption statute. Current law provides only that a debtor's federal earned income tax credit is exempt property.	Hearing- Thursday, 2/11/2010 9:00 AM, Room 431
HB 1030 Reps. Riecken & Barnes	Local government reorganization	Specifies that a reorganization committee acting under local government reorganization statutes must include in its reorganization plan and in other materials provided to the public a statement regarding: (1) whether a fiscal impact analysis concerning the proposed reorganization has been prepared by or on behalf of the reorganization committee; and (2) whether a fiscal impact analysis concerning the proposed reorganization has been made available to the public.	Passed– First House
HB 1117 Rep. Moseley	Funding for Adult Education	Provides an adult education grant to school corporations as part of the state tuition support distribution. Adds the adult education appropriation for state fiscal year 2010-2011 to the state tuition support distribution appropriation for state fiscal year 2010-2011.	Passed- First House

House Bills continued...

Bills	Title	Notes	Status
HB 1181 Rep. Crawford	Referendum on retaining township trustee and board.	Requires a public question to be placed on the November 2010 general election ballot in each township regarding whether the voters want to retain a township trustee and township board. Provides that if a majority of voters in a township do not approve the public question, the powers and duties of the trustee and township board are transferred to the county on January 1, 2012.	Passed - First House

Senate Bills

Bills	Digest	Notes	Status
SB 23 Sen. Hershman Kenley, Kruse, etc.	Unemployment Insurance	Delays from January 1, 2010, to January 1, 2011, changes in the taxable wage base and employer contribution rates for the unemployment compensation system.	Passed- First House
SB 253 Sen. Kenley	Constitutional amendment ballot language	Specifies the ballot language for the submission of the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of Indiana concerning circuit breakers and other property tax matters.	Passed- First House
SB 295 Sen. Miller	Family and social services	Various provisions regarding FSSA including: Requiring a family to receive a cash assistance benefit of at least \$10 under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program if certain income standards and employment earnings are met. As well as specifying that access to a child support enforcement program and IMPACT (JOBS) training program are included as TANF services for certain eligible families.	Passed- First House
SB 324 Sens. Dillon & M. Young	Explanation of proposed constitutional amendments	Requires the legislative services agency to prepare a neutral summary of any proposed state constitutional amendment and to submit the proposed summary to the legislative council for approval. Makes provisions for distributing the summary to the public.	Passed- First House
SB 389 Sens. Kruse & Breaux	Information on Individual Development Accounts (IDAs)	Requires that caseworkers of foster children will provide the children with information concerning individual development accounts. An amendment filed on February 1, 2010, would, if adopted, require the caseworker to distribute this information to the foster parent, as well as to the foster child.	Passed- First House

TAKE ACTION NOW!

Let your legislators know how you feel about these issues.

Who represents you? <http://district.iga.in.gov/DistrictLookup/>

Contact your Legislators! <http://www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl>

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