



Hi, friend!

With third reading deadlines taking place early this week, surviving bills have now returned to their chamber of origins. If they have amendments, the chamber of origin has the option to concur with the changes, then send the bill on to Governor Holcomb to sign into law; or the chamber of origin can dissent from the changes, in which case it will be sent to a conference committee where select members of both the House and Senate will meet to iron out any differences they have in the bill.

Conference committee meetings are well under way and [Governor Holcomb has already signed plenty of bills into law.](#)

Read on for your updates from the Statehouse this week!

Have a good weekend,

*Sarah*



## Public Health

[SB 4, "Public Health Commission"](#) cleared its third reading in the House chamber earlier this week with a vote of (78-21). It will now be returned to the Senate with amendments. This bill supports Governor Holcomb's proposal to expand state support for county-level public health programs by increasing funding for core public health services. Currently, Indiana county health departments rank 45th nationally for funding. If passed, the goal of this bill is to improve health outcomes throughout Indiana by increasing access to smoking cessation programs, communicable disease prevention, emergency preparedness, restaurant and sewage system inspections, and childhood vaccinations.

MCCOY supports this bill because it would help improve Indiana's poor national rankings in areas such as obesity, smoking, and life expectancy.

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## Bullying Prevention

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**HB 1483, "Discipline Rules Regarding Bullying"** passed its third reading on Tuesday in the full Senate chamber (41-9) and has been returned to the House with amendments. The House dissented and this bill will now be sent to a conference committee.

This bill would help ensure that school districts prioritize the safety of a child who has been bullied and determine the severity of each bullying incident to determine if it warrants the transfer of the perpetrator. It would also establish new requirements for schools to better report occurrences of bullying to the parents of the victim and the parents of the offender.

MCCOY supports any attempt to improve children's abilities to learn in a safe and supportive environment.

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## Science of Reading

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**HB 1558, "Science of Reading,"** received its third reading in the full Senate on Tuesday and passed 50-0. If passed, this bill would establish funding to place literacy instruction coaches in elementary schools, as well as obtain reading training for teachers throughout Indiana. Rep. Jake Teshka, the author of the bill, outlined the importance of how we instruct reading, mentioning that 20% of Hoosier children are not reading proficiently and that the lack of proficiency in reading leads to a higher rate of students dropping out of school. HB 1558 has been returned to the House with amendments and the House has filed a motion to concur.

MCCOY supports HB 1558 because it would allow more children in Indiana to become proficient in reading, giving them a better chance for success as they grow.



## FAFSA

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**SB167, "FAFSA,"** has received Governor Holcomb's signature and will now be passed into law, taking effect during the next school year. This new law will require students to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The new law makes filling out the form a conscious choice instead of happenstance and will allow more students to be considered for federal financial aid such as grants, loans, and scholarships. Completion is also considered a leading indicator of college-going.

MCCOY is pleased to see this legislation pass into law because we support any efforts to help young people seek higher education and break down barriers to reach those goals.

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## Youth Justice

**HB1493, "Elimination of Costs and Fees in Juvenile Court,"** passed its third reading on Tuesday in the full Senate chamber (32-18) and has now been returned to the House without amendments. This bill proposes to waive juvenile court costs and fees for families unless they are financially able to pay them.

MCCOY supports this bill because it would eliminate an undue burden on families by making courts responsible for ensuring parents can pay for juvenile court fees.



## Birth Control

**SB252, "Contraceptives and Pregnancy Matters,"** received a conference committee hearing earlier this week. If passed, this bill would allow an unclaimed long acting reversible contraceptive that is prescribed to and obtained for a Medicaid recipient to be transferred to another Medicaid recipient. Legislators are still weighing on the bill, and have expressed an interest in taking language from SB266 to insert into this bill. The language they are hoping to take from **SB266, "Long acting reversible contraceptives,"** would require a hospital to notify a woman who has just given birth that they have the option of having a long acting reversible contraceptive placed after delivery and before discharge, if medically appropriate.

MCCOY supports any effort to expand access to safe and effective contraceptive methods.



## 21st Century Scholars Program

**HB 1449, "Twenty-first Century Scholars Program"** was returned to the House where they concurred with the Senate amendments (89-1) and now it will be sent to Gov Holcomb for final passage. This bill would require the commission for higher education to notify eligible students who qualify for enrollment in the twenty-first century scholars' program. Currently, about half of eligible students do not apply for the program on time and miss out on the opportunity to have their college expenses covered.

MCCOY supports HB 1449 because we believe enrollment in the 21st Century Scholars program would help students have more educational opportunities that could positively change the trajectory of their adult lives.

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## Contact Us

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Statehouse Sound-off 4.21

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