



Hi, friend!

The Committee Report Deadlines have passed for the House this past Tuesday and the Senate this past Thursday. [Any bills that did not receive a hearing by this deadline are now dead.](#)

Bills that have passed through committees will now be brought before the full chamber for further amendments and ultimate passage. Bills will need to be passed through the full House chamber no later than this upcoming Monday the 17th and through the full Senate chamber on Tuesday the 18th.

One might think that this is the final step before a bill is sent to Governor Holcomb to sign into law-- that is not always the case. When the House and Senate do not agree to the changes made in the opposite chamber to a bill, then they will take the bill to what is called a "conference committee."

Conference committees will be taking place starting next week up until the end of session (expected last day, or "Sine Die," is scheduled for Thursday, April 27.)

Read on to learn more about conference committees along with your updates on what happened at the Statehouse this week.

Enjoy the warm weather this weekend!

*Sarah*



## Conference Committees

### Conference Committees: What are they?

If a bill is amended while in the second chamber, it is returned to its chamber of origin with those amendments.

The chamber of origin then decides to agree (concur) to the amendments, or it can disagree (dissent).

If the chamber of origin disagrees with the amendment, then the bill is sent to a conference committee.

Conference Committees are special committees that meet in the last couple weeks of the legislative session. The committees consist of two members from the House and Senate, representing both political parties, and during a conference committee, these

members attempt to iron out the differences between the House and Senate versions of a bill.

If they reach an agreement, the agreed upon bill is sent to the Governor. If no agreement, the bill dies.

Here are some bills of interest that are heading their way to a conference committee (with many more to come!):

- [SB35, Financial Literacy](#)
- [SB236, Learners Permits](#)
- [HB1447, Education Matters](#)
- [HB1570, Family and Juvenile Law Matters](#)

It is important to pay close attention to these committees! It is not uncommon for legislators to insert language into bills that might significantly alter the bill altogether. This could even be language from an otherwise dead bill.

Click on the button below to see what bills will be on their way to a conference committee along with seeing what legislators are assigned to discuss which bills.

2023 Conference Committees



## State Budget Proposal

On Thursday, Indiana Senate Republicans unveiled their \$43.3 two-year state budget proposal, which attempts to reign in House budget proposals related to private school voucher expansions and income tax cuts while it adds funding for mental health and a proposal to let charter schools share in public school property tax revenue.

The bill now heads to the full Senate chamber for further review and amendments. Later, the House and the Senate will need to negotiate a final version of the budget, and a few sticking points are expected: Specifically, how much to expand private school vouchers, how quickly to cut income taxes and how to generate more money toward a reinvented mental health response system.

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## Library Restrictions

We mentioned last week how language from [SB12, "Material Harmful to Minors"](#) was considered to be inserted into another education bill, [SB380](#). This language would have opened school and public librarians to prosecution for sharing materials in their libraries that some might consider "harmful" or "obscene," which could ultimately lead to book banning and censorship.

Last week, that amendment drew strong opposition from advocates who came to testify, so on Monday morning, we were pleased to see that legislators decided to drop the amendment altogether.

We will continue to keep a close eye to make sure that this language is not re-inserted into a different bill within these final weeks of the legislative session.

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## LGBTQ Youth

**HB1608**, Indiana's version of the Don't Say Gay bill, passed out of the full Senate chamber with a vote of 37-12. Before passage, legislators inserted an amendment to the bill changing the language that would require a school to get parental permission for a name or pronoun change request, to a school only requiring to notify a parent that the name or pronoun change request had been made.

Though some of the teeth were removed from this amendment, we remain in strong opposition of the bill, because it would still potentially force teachers to "out" a student who wants to go to school in an affirming environment, while they might not feel safe to do so at home.

HB1608 has been returned to the House with amendments. If the House does not concur with the Senate amendments, then the bill will go to a conference committee for further review.

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## Youth Justice

Two bills improving youth justice issues are approaching the legislative finish line:

**SB415, "Juveniles,"** was returned to the Senate with amendments, and the Senate concurred on the amendments. This bill would make a statement made by a child that has been knowingly lied to by police inadmissible in court. It will next head to Governor Holcomb's desk to sign into law.

**HB1493, "Elimination of Costs and Fees in Juvenile Court,"** finally received a hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Thursday and passed unanimously, 12-0. This bill would eliminate the costs and fees that accumulate when a young person goes through the juvenile court and often times puts them and their families in deep financial debt. It will now go to the full Senate for further review.



## Birth Control

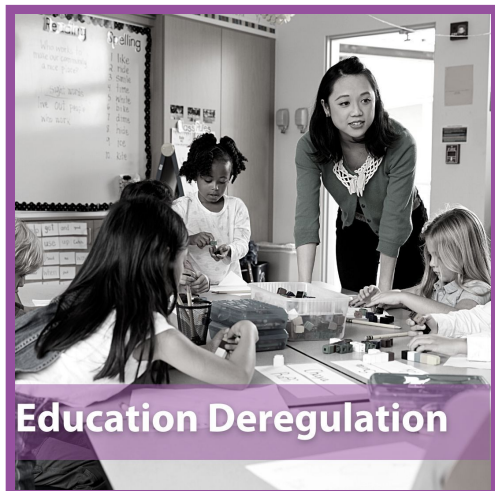
Earlier this week, two bills that would expand access to contraceptives moved closer to the legislative finish line.

**SB252, "Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives,"** passed out of the House Committee on Public Health with a vote of 10-0. 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. The bill received its second reading in the full House chamber on Thursday, April 13, and will likely get its third reading early next week.

**HB1568, "Prescription for Hormonal Contraceptives,"** passed its third reading in the full senate with a vote of 28-20. If passed, this bill would allow pharmacists to prescribe and



dispense contraceptives. The bill has been returned to the House without amendments and will likely head to Governor Holcomb's desk next.

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## Education Deregulation

**SB486, "Education Matters,"** is scheduled for its third reading on Monday before the full House chamber. If passed, this bill would remove a 50-year-old mandate that requires school administrators to discuss working conditions with teachers' labor representatives. The bill also would strip down teacher training and evaluation requirements currently in state law.

We join the many teachers in opposition of SB486 because by removing collective bargaining protections, teacher concerns may be silenced, and could result in further driving teachers from their profession.

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