

Hannah Swogger

From: Sarah at MCCOY <sarah.kumfer@mccoyouth.org>
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 8:00 AM
To: Hannah Swogger
Subject: The second half of session has begun and Youth Day at the Statehouse is almost here!
Here's what you need to know:

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Hello, Hannah!

We have officially kicked off the second half of the 2024 legislative session this week, with lots of committee hearings discussing bills that have passed over from the opposite chamber. Many bills we have been tracking are already passing through their respective committees. Read below for more details.

We are also just a few short days away from Youth Day at the Statehouse! With nearly 400 young people signed up to attend, this will be a memorable event that we hope will encourage Hoosier youth to share their voices, advocate on issues of importance to them, and actively work to shape the future of our community. We hope to see you at the Statehouse!

Have a great weekend,

Sarah

Legislative issues from this week



Reading Skills

[SB 1, "Reading Skills"](#) and [SB 6, "Reading Proficiency"](#) both received hearings in the House Education Committee this week.

SB1 addresses Indiana's low literacy rates by requiring earlier interventions to ensure children are on track to meet reading requirements by third grade. Opponents of the bill continue to share their concerns with lawmakers on expanding the opportunity for students to be retained in third grade if they don't meet those literacy milestones.

SB1 passed out of the House Education committee with a vote of 9-4 and has now been referred to the Committee on Ways and Means for further review.

[Read more.](#)

SB6 tasks the Indiana Department of Education with identifying students in grades four through eight who did not pass the state's reading exam and who are not proficient in reading. The department would be required to create guidance on how to help those students increase their literacy skills.

SB6 passed out of the House Education committee with a vote of 10-0.



Youth Employment

[SB146, "Youth Employment"](#) passed out of the House Employment, Labor, and Pensions committee this week with a vote of 12-0. This bill will expand work hours and time restrictions for young Hoosiers and allow 18-year-olds to ring up alcohol sales in work settings such as a restaurant or hotel.

[Read more.](#)



Child Care

[HB1102, "Childcare"](#) passed out of the Senate committee on Health and Provider Services this week with a vote of 8-2. This bill seeks to expand access to child care in Indiana by allowing unlicensed, home-based providers to care for as many as seven children, up from five. And a change in the Senate committee ensures no more than three of them are less than a year old. Those counts don't include any children in their care who are relatives or their own children.

[Read more.](#)



Cell Phones

[SB185, "Student Use of Wireless Communication Device"](#) passed out of the House Education committee with a vote of 10-0. This bill requires all schools to adopt and implement a policy to address wireless communication devices including cell phones, watches, and tablets. While many schools already have procedures in place, this will create consistency for schools to address cell phones and other communication devices across the state.

[Read more.](#)



Juvenile Justice

[HB1240, "Criminal Law Issues"](#) received a hearing this week in the Senate Committee on Corrections and Criminal Law. Section 25 of HB1240 would add direct filing for 16- and 17-year-olds -- widening the net of cases that will result in children being tried as adults without rehabilitation options provided by the juvenile system. MCCOY joined other concerned youth advocates who asked lawmakers to remove section 25 because youth belong in juvenile court with its focus on rehabilitative services and responses.

The bill has been held in committee.



University Matters

[SB202, "State Educational Institution Matters"](#)

received a hearing this week in the House Education Committee. This bill will increase lawmaker oversight of state colleges and universities and push speech in the classroom toward "intellectual diversity." MCCOY joins the advocates from the university community who

oppose this bill because it will severely constrain academic freedom and threaten schools' ability to recruit and retain top faculty. The bill has been held in committee.

[Read more.](#)

Youth Day at the Statehouse



Presidents Day: February 19, 2024

We look forward to hosting Youth Day at the Statehouse this Monday, February 19th! We have close to 400 youth signed up to attend. It should be an impactful day where young people can learn about the legislative process, connect with other youth advocates and advocacy groups from Indiana, and share their voices with lawmakers on issues of importance to them!

[Click here](#) for the agenda, information to know, registration information, and resources to prepare youth for the day.

We hope to see you there!

Indiana Youth Institute's 2024 State of the Child

We are so excited to work alongside Indiana Youth Institute to make Youth Day at the Statehouse a success!

IYI will be delivering their 2024 State of the Child presentation and officially release the 2024 Kids Count Data Book on **February 19th from 10:30-11:30am** in the House Chamber at the Statehouse.

The reliable, high-quality data and resources offered through the 2024 Kids Count Data Book empowers and equips leaders, policymakers, youth workers, and advocates LIKE YOU with a go-to, trusted source to create positive change for Indiana youth.

[Click here](#) to let IYI know you plan on attending the presentation!





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