

Hannah Swogger

From: Sarah at MCCOY <sarah.kumfer@mccoyouth.org>
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2024 8:00 AM
To: Hannah Swogger
Subject: The 2024 Legislative Session ends today! Here's what happened this week:

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Hi, Hannah!

Lawmakers have the goal to end the 2024 legislative session today-- one week earlier than the anticipated Sine Die. Their schedules have been jam packed this week voting through bills before their third reading deadlines and then fitting in conference committees where some bills require further negotiations.

Read below for your legislative updates from this week.

Stay tuned for a special edition legislative wrap-up next week once all of the ever-evolving bills have passed through the Statehouse and have landed on Governor Holcomb's desk.

Have a great weekend,

Legislative issues from this week



School Absenteeism

[SB 282, now re-named as "Various Education Matters"](#)

was scheduled for a conference committee this week. When they met for a very brief meeting, the author of the bill said that they are still working on coming to an agreement and then immediately went into recess.

The latest draft of the bill focuses on chronic absenteeism, and requires school districts to prohibit habitually truant elementary students — those who have 10 or more unexcused absences — from participating in extracurricular activities. School officials must additionally report habitually truant students to prosecutors' offices. Prosecutors would then have to notify parents that they've filed affidavits related to their students' absenteeism.

[Read more.](#)

ACTION ALERT: [Call or email now!](#) Tell your legislators to remove the provisions in SB282 that could subject children to prosecution!



Higher Education

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

has already passed both chambers and is waiting for a signature by Governor Holcomb. Advocates are not giving up the fight to oppose this bill and are asking Governor Holcomb to veto the bill. This bill seeks to institute 5-year reviews of tenured professors, bar universities from requiring DEI statements, and establish new student programming on engaging with a diverse range of topics at Indiana's public universities.

[MCCOY joins the opponents](#) of the bill because we are concerned that the language of the bill will censor or silence faculty and hinder open discussions of racism and racial history in public universities. This could drive faculty and students of color away from our colleges and universities.

ACTION ALERT: Contact Governor Holcomb today and tell him to veto SB202. Call and leave a message at 317-232-4567 or email him at eholcomb@in.gov.

[Read more.](#)



Religious Instruction

[HB1137, "Civics Education and Religious Instruction"](#)

went to a conference committee this week where lawmakers agreed to remove the provisions that would have allowed chaplains to work in schools. The bill still allows for students to leave school for religious instruction at their parents' request.

MCCOY is pleased to see the removal of the language to allow for school chaplains because we were concerned about the favoring of one religion over another but also because chaplains are not required to be trained to work in schools

The conference committee reports have been filed and HB1137 will soon move forward to Gov. Holcomb's desk to sign into law.

[Read more.](#)



Contraceptives

[HB 1426, "Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives"](#) has passed both chambers and the House concurred with the Senate amendments this week. This bill will allow new mothers who just gave birth and are eligible for Medicaid to choose to receive a subdermal contraceptive, which is placed under the skin. The bill's language would expire at the end of June 2025 as lawmakers are expected to further discuss policy and costs when building the next state budget.

Some Senate Democrats expressed concern about the bill because it had an amendment that stated that only subdermal contraceptives should be stocked in maternity wards and removed the language of including IUDs. The author and other lawmakers supporting the bill said it does not prevent hospitals and medical professionals from stocking IUDs or having conversations about other forms of birth control.

The bill will now be sent to Governor Holcomb to sign into law.

[Read more.](#)

Stay engaged in advocacy after session ends!



MCCOY Legislative Update Seminar

March 18 1:00-2:00PM (VIRTUAL)

Come join us for an update on Indiana's legislative session. We will discuss what bills passed, which ones were tabled, and how they will impact youth and adults in 2024.

[Register today!](#)



FREE Advocacy Resources

Even though Indiana's legislative session is ending doesn't mean you should stop advocating to create positive policy changes in Indiana for all youth and families!

Check out our free library of advocacy resources to brush up on your advocacy skills!

[Check out our resource page now!](#)



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