



February 6, 2026

2026 Indiana General Assembly

Bills of INAFSM Interest

~~House Joint Resolution No. 2: Elimination of Several Elected County Officers~~

Senate Bill 224: Indiana Department of Natural Resources Agency Bill

Senate Bill 277: Indiana Department of Environmental Management Agency Bill

~~House Bill 1222: Exemption of Retention Ponds from State Dam Safety Regulations~~

~~House Bill 1326: Establishes the Indiana Emergency Efficiency and Resilience Task Force~~

~~House Bill 1416: Preemption of Local Regulation~~

Other Bills of Interest

LEAP District/Data Centers/Ground Water:

Senate Bills ~~79, 257~~; House Bills ~~1043, 1297~~, 1333, ~~1379~~

PFAS:

Senate Bill ~~237~~; House Bills ~~1110, 1190, 1239~~

Important Dates for the 2026 Session of the Indiana Legislature:

Wednesday January 7, 2026 – Deadline for filing House Bills

Friday January 9, 2026 – Deadline for filing Senate Bills

Thursday January 29, 2026 – Last day for Third Reading of House Bills in the House and Senate Bills
in the Senate

Tuesday February 24, 2026 – Last day for Third Reading of House Bills in the Senate and Senate Bills
in the House

Saturday March 14, 2026 – Last day for Adjournment of both Houses

House Joint Resolution No. 2: *Elimination of Several Elected County Officers*

<https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2026/resolutions/house/joint/2/details>

Removes the: (1) auditor; (2) recorder; (3) treasurer; (4) coroner; and (5) surveyor (officers); from the list of elected county officers who are to be elected in each county. Requires the general assembly to prescribe, by law, the duties of the officers to the county executive. Provides a schedule for the officers to complete their terms. This proposed amendment has not been previously agreed to by a general assembly. This proposed amendment must be agreed to by two consecutive general assemblies and ratified by a majority of the state's voters voting on the question to be effective.

House Joint Resolution No. 2 was assigned to the House Committee on Elections and Apportionment. Since a vote on the resolution was not held, the resolution is dead for this session.

Senate Bill 224: *Indiana Department of Natural Resources Agency Bill*

<https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2026/bills/senate/224/details>

Very long bill drafted by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Makes **many** revisions to state statutes dealing with IDNR.

Senate Bill 224 was assigned to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the first hearing on the bill was held on January 12, 2026. Due to the many questions from Senators on the Committee and from members of the public, no vote was taken on the bill. A second hearing for the bill was held on Tuesday January 27, 2026 (meeting pushed back one day due to snow storm) and was passed out of the committee by a 9 – 0 vote. The bill passed on Second Reading on January 28, 2026 and Third Reading on January 29, 2026 by a 48 – 0 vote.

The bill is now under consideration in the House of Representatives and has been assigned to the House Committee on Natural Resources. A hearing for the bill will be held on Wednesday February 11, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.

Senate Bill 277: Indiana Department of Environmental Management Agency Bill

<https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2026/bills/senate/277/details>

Very, very long bill drafted by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). Makes **many** revisions to state statutes dealing with IDEM, most of which would lower the bar for environmental regulation in Indiana.

Senate Bill 277 was assigned to the Senate Committee on Environmental Affairs and the first hearing on the bill was held on January 12, 2026. Although there were many questions from Senators on the Committee and from members of the public, the bill did pass out of the Committee by a 5 – 3 vote. Due to the monetary issues in the bill, it was assigned to the Senate Committee on Appropriations and a hearing for the bill in this committee was held on January 22, 2026. The bill passed out of the committee by a 9 – 4 vote. The bill passed on Second Reading on January 28, 2026 and Third Reading on January 29, 2026 by a 29 – 19 vote so there was some Republican opposition to this bill.

The bill is now under consideration in the House of Representatives and has been assigned to the House Committee on Environmental Affairs. A hearing for the bill will be held on Wednesday February 11, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

House Bill 1222: *Exemption of Retention Ponds from State Dam Safety Regulations*

<https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2026/bills/house/1222/details>

This bill does exactly what the title says but includes a somewhat strange definition for retention ponds.

House Bill 1222 was assigned to the House Committee on Natural Resources. Since a hearing on the bill was not held, the bill is dead for this session.

House Bill 1326: *Establishes the Indiana Emergency Efficiency and Resilience Task Force*
<https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2026/bills/house/1326/details>

This bill will establish the Indiana emergency efficiency and resilience task force and provides that the task force shall study certain topics related to disaster resilience. Requires the task force to submit a written report with specific findings and recommendations to the legislative council not later than December 1, 2026.

House Bill 1326 was assigned to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and Public Safety and the first hearing on the bill was held on January 22, 2026 but no vote was taken on the bill in this committee hearing. Since a vote on the bill was not held, the bill is dead for this session.

House Bill 1416: Preemption of Local Regulation

<https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2026/bills/house/1416/actions>

This bill, authored by Representative Doug Miller (last year's sponsor of House Bill 1037) provides that unless expressly authorized by another statute, a municipality or county may not adopt, enforce, or maintain an ordinance, order, or rule regulating conduct in a field of regulation that is occupied by a provision in specified titles of the Indiana Code. Establishes a cause of action for a person who has sustained an injury in fact, actual or threatened, from a municipal or county ordinance, order, or rule adopted or enforced by a municipality or county. Still looking to determine the exact implications of this bill, if any.

House Bill 1416 was assigned to the House Committee on the Judiciary. Since a hearing on the bill was not held, the bill is dead for this session.

Other Bills of Interest

LEAP District/Data Centers/Ground Water:

~~Senate Bill 79 <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2026/bills/senate/79/details>~~

~~Senate Bill 257 <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2026/bills/senate/257/details>~~

~~House Bill 1043 <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2026/bills/house/1043/details>~~

~~House Bill 1297 <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2026/bills/house/1297/details>~~

House Bill 1333 <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2026/bills/house/1333/details>

~~House Bill 1379 <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2026/bills/house/1379/details>~~

PFAS:

~~Senate Bill 237 <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2026/bills/senate/237/details>~~

~~House Bill 1110 <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2026/bills/house/1110/details>~~

~~House Bill 1190 <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2026/bills/house/1190/details>~~

~~House Bill 1239 <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2026/bills/house/1239/details>~~