



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

Monday February 23, 2026 – Last day for Second Reading of House Bills in the Senate and Senate
Bills in the House

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

(Friday February 27, 2026 – Actual Adjournment)

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 snowstorm) 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 was then under consideration in the House of Representatives and was assigned to the House Committee on Natural Resources. A hearing for the bill was held on Wednesday February 11, 2026 where the bill was amended and passed out of the committee by a 11 – 0 vote. The Second Reading for the on the House floor was delayed due to concerns over the elimination of the Natural Resources Commission (NRC). Eventually the NRC was kept in place and the bill passed Second Reading on February 23, 2026 and then Third Reading passing out of the House on February 24, 2026 by a vote of 85 – 11. The bill changes were accepted by the Senate by a vote of 45 – 4 on February 27, 2026 and was sent to the Governor for signature.

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 was then under consideration in the House of Representatives and was assigned to the House Committee on Environmental Affairs. A hearing for the bill was held on Wednesday February 11, 2026 where the bill was amended and passed out of the committee by a 6-5 vote with several of the committee members who voted yes saying that they had concerns on the bill and may not support it on the House floor. The bill has not yet been heard on the House floor due to many concerns over several portions of the bill, including the parts regarding PFAS regulations. The bill passed on Second Reading on February 23, 2026 and the bill eventually, after many failed and a few successful amendments, passed Third Reading on February 24, 2026 by a the narrow margin of only 53 – 45. The bill changes were accepted by the Senate by an extremely close vote of 26 – 21 on February 25, 2026. ***Four Republican Senators changed their votes from no to yes*** so the bill could pass and be sent to the Governor for signature.

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>

House Bill 1001: Housing Matters

<https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2026/bills/house/1001/details>

SECTION 4. IC 13-14-1-19 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]:

Sec. 19.

- (a) Not later than December 1, 2026, the department shall do the following:
- (1) Conduct a review of the Indiana Storm Water Quality Manual to determine whether:
 - (A) the recommendations in the Indiana Storm Water Quality Manual are cost effective; and
 - (B) any new or revised recommendations are necessary.
 - (2) Submit a report of its findings and recommendations under subdivision (1) to the legislative council in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.
- (b) The Indiana Storm Water Quality Manual with respect to storm water management basins:
- (1) may not require a pond bank ratio greater than three (3) to one (1); and
 - (2) must require a ten (10) foot maintenance ledge or a ten (10) foot safety ledge, but may not require both.

The department shall make changes to the Indiana Storm Water Quality Manual to comply with this subsection not later than December 1, 2026.

SECTION 5. IC 14-8-2-50.2 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]:

Sec. 50.2. "Compensatory storage", for purposes of IC 14-28-3-9, has the meaning set forth in IC 14-28-3-9.

SECTION 6. IC 14-8-2-289, AS AMENDED BY P.L.35-2024, SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 289. "Unit of local government", for purposes of IC 14-12-1, IC 14-15-14, ~~and~~ IC 14-22-10, **and IC 14-28-3-9**, means a:

- (1) county;
- (2) city;
- (3) town; or
- (4) township; located in Indiana.

SECTION 7. IC 14-28-3-9 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]:

Sec. 9.

- (a) As used in this section, "compensatory storage" includes artificial storage used to balance the loss of natural flood storage capacity as a result of placing fill material or other obstructions within a flood plain.
- (b) The state or a unit of local government may not require a person who intends to fill land in a flood plain to provide compensatory storage at a ratio greater than three (3) (mitigated land) to one (1) (filled land).