

LEGISLATIVE ACTION NETWORK
WEEK #4 JANUARY 25-29, 2010
WEEK #5 FEBRUARY 1-5, 2010
WEEK #6 FEBRUARY 8-12, 2010

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This is a combined weekly report of weeks 4-6 of the first half of the legislative session.

Week #4

FSSA is rolling out its hybrid intake process this week. The state now has three different processes for intake procedures, the new hybrid in Southwestern Indiana, the old system for those who were not included in any of the previous roll-outs, and some form of the privatized/modernized system now with caseworkers or others assisting with the intake process. ICHS continues to collaborate with FSSA.

HB1157-Child Care Ministries was withdrawn this week after a rather nasty confrontation. The bill would have required background checks for care givers and they be age appropriate.

The Senate Elections committee heard SB83-Public inspection of provisional ballot materials which passed out of committee and on to 2nd reading on the floor; SB91-Absentee voting was withdrawn by the author.

The "Coalition of the Determined" continues to work to get the Redistricting bills out of committee and onto the Senate floor for 2nd and 3rd readings.

Week #5

There are no committee hearings scheduled this week. There are two days of second and third readings of bills ending the first half of the session. Bills that make it out of their house of origin will be assigned to committees in the other house. Bill assignments should be completed by February 12th.

Week #6

Committee hearings are beginning this week as bills are still being assigned to committees. The House will receive 135 Senate bills and the Senate will receive 104 House bills. Assignments should be completed by February 12th. The schedule for committee hearings has been cut by one week. This means the session will move very quickly from this point. Committee reports will be due the week of February 22nd then conference committees will begin their work. Anticipate adjournment by March 5th.

LWVIN will continue to press hard for redistricting, lobby reform, ethics reform as well as local government reorganization and vote centers. We will continue to

monitor energy and other second tier issues. Please watch for action alerts and be prepared to respond quickly. Remember, as few as **20** e-mails, or phone calls on a bill can get a legislators attention.

Human services have not fared well in this session. The “no new expenditures” mantra has hit low and moderate income individuals and service providers.

For your reading pleasure:

The Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute recently released the study “Vote Centers and Election Costs: A Study of the Fiscal Impact of Vote Centers in Indiana.” Click here to read the executive summary<http://www.in.gov/sos/elections/files/IFPI_Vote_Centers_and_Election_Costs_summary.pdf>, or download the full study<http://www.in.gov/sos/elections/files/IFPI_Vote_Centers_and_Election_Costs_Report.pdf>.

I hope that you will find this information useful. In addition, we anticipate the release of a Bowen Center study on Vote Centers to be soon. Click here for an executive summary of that study<http://www.in.gov/sos/elections/files/BowenCenterVoteCenterSummary_for_SOS.pdf>.

These studies will be posted on the LWVIN website shortly.

An updated Bill Watch is included in the Report as an attachment.