



### **Overview of 2026 Session:**

The Indiana Senate Adjourned Sine Die on Friday, February 27th at 6:24pm. The Indiana House of Representatives adjourned Sine Die on Friday, February 27th at 6:36pm. This marked the conclusion of Indiana's 124th General Assembly, marking one of the shortest sessions in recent history. In a year that traditionally runs into mid-March, legislators concluded their work weeks ahead of schedule, wrapping up committee hearings, floor debates, and final votes on an accelerated timeline.

Due to the limited time constraints, fewer bills were heard and moved compared to a typical session, and only a minimal number of conference committees were convened in the final days. The compressed schedule left little room for extended deliberations or prolonged dissent between chambers, resulting in a streamlined — though more tightly managed — legislative process. The Senate was able to advance 81 bills to the Governor's desk, while the House advanced 96. Totalling 177 passed pieces of legislation for this session. Below is a recap of the major developments and outcomes from this unusually concise 2026 session.

**2026 All Filed Bills - [Here](#)**

**2026 Governor Braun Bill Watch - [Here](#)**

**2026 Senate Republicans End of Session Press Release - [Here](#)**

"Ensuring our communities are safe is one of our top priorities, and this year, we continued that commitment by passing a bill that will give Hoosiers the ability to vote on a constitutional amendment this November that would allow judges to deny bail to those who are a threat to public safety," Bray said. "We are also continuing our commitment to financial responsibility by ensuring we root out waste, fraud and abuse in our welfare programs and preserve them for Hoosiers who need them most." - Pro Tem Rod Bray (R- Martinsville)

**2026 House Republicans End of Session Press Release - [Here](#)**

"This session was focused on affordability for Hoosier families and streamlining government to better serve taxpayers," "We advanced new laws to expand Indiana's housing supply and drive down costs of homeownership and to reform our regulatory process so that utilities are prioritizing affordability. These are significant efforts that put Hoosier pocketbooks first. We also passed new laws to better protect young Hoosiers, cut taxes for veterans and workers, reduce unnecessary government and embrace economic opportunity for our state." - Speaker Todd Huston (R -Fishers)

### **Senate Republican Legislative Priorities:**

[Senate Bill 1](#), authored by Senate Majority Floor Leader Chris Garten (R-Charlestown) Root out waste, fraud and abuse in Indiana's welfare programs by increasing eligibility checks for SNAP, preventing illegal immigrants from claiming benefits and updating Indiana's laws to comply with new federal Medicaid reforms, including work requirements for able-bodied, working-age adults.

[Senate Joint Resolution 1](#), authored by State Sen. Eric Koch (R-Bedford) Amends the Indiana Constitution to allow judges to deny bail if a suspect clearly poses a substantial risk to any other person or the community.

[Read the full Senate Republican 2025 Agenda press release here.](#)

### **House Republicans Legislative Priorities:**

[House Bill 1001](#), authored by Rep. Doug Miller, is designed to Expand Indiana's housing supply and drive down costs of home ownership by rolling back costly regulations that impede development.

[House Bill 1002](#), authored by Rep. Alaina Shonkwiler, prioritizes affordability to rate payers while adjusting Indiana's Utilities to a performance based ratemaking system. This incentivizes reliability and affordability of utility companies.

[House Bill 1003](#), authored by Rep. Steve Bartels, reduces government by combining, eliminating or streamlining dozens of redundant or inactive boards and commissions.

[House Bill 1004](#), authored by Rep. Bob Behning, cuts red tape in education by eliminating unnecessary rules and regulations, freeing up resources and giving K-12 schools more flexibility to focus on educating our kids.

[Read the full House Republican 2026 Agenda press release here.](#)

## **IRTA Session Recap**

During the 2026 session of the Indiana General Assembly, Sand Strategies closely monitored the INPRS agency bill and other legislation affecting pension and retirement security, but our primary focus on behalf of the Indiana Retired Teachers Association was the two “13th check” proposals: SB 63 authored by Senator David Niezgodski and HB 1145 authored by Representative Mike Karickhoff. SB 63 passed unanimously out of the Senate Pensions and Labor Committee but did not advance further in the Senate. HB 1145, however, passed the House unanimously and ultimately cleared the Senate by a vote of 39–9, continuing the House’s longstanding history of strong support for pension enhancements. While a majority of Senators support providing additional benefits to retirees, the third reading vote underscores that there remains a bloc of nine members opposed for various reasons. It continues to be frustrating that many in the Senate—including some “no” votes—express a preference for a long-term COLA-based solution, yet are unwilling to advance that conversation at this time. We remain hopeful that this dynamic will shift once the unfunded liability of the Pre-1996 Pension Fund is paid down in 2028 or 2029, creating greater flexibility for sustainable enhancements.

**IRTA Bill Track Link - [Here](#)**

## **IRTA Priority Legislation**

### **[HB1145 - Thirteenth Check \(Passed\)](#)**

Provides for a “thirteenth check” pension benefit in calendar year 2026 for certain members, participants, and beneficiaries of Indiana public retirement systems, including the Indiana State Teachers’ Retirement Fund (TRF), the Indiana Public Employees’ Retirement Fund (PERF), the State Excise Police, Gaming Agent, Gaming Control Officer, and Conservation Enforcement Officers’ Retirement Plan (EG&C), and both the Pre-1987 and 1987 State Police benefit systems.. Fiscal analysis estimates combined state and local expenditures for the 2027 thirteenth check at roughly \$61.9 million, with amounts varying by years of service.

## **Supporting Relationships:**

In addition to our direct lobbying efforts, we strengthened IRTA’s overall relationships with key policymakers and policy influencers for strategic advocacy and brand awareness. This included stakeholders from:

- Indiana General Assembly
  - House & Senate leadership, committee chairman, rank and file, executive staff.
- Indiana Executive Branch
- Local units of government
- Member organizations, economic development organizations, industry stakeholders
- HRCC and SMCC