



## AGRICULTURE COUNCIL OF INDIANA NEWSLETTER

*Promoting Agribusiness Policy in Indiana*

**February 2, 2018**

### **Indiana General Assembly Week 5**

This short legislative session of the Indiana General Assembly is almost halfway done as we end week five. The list of all filed bills is available [here](#). Bills that ACI is closely monitoring this year, the ACI Bill Track, can be found [here](#).

### **The Statehouse - Bills to Review**

The ACI Government Affairs Team will be monitoring session for bills impacting ACI members including items related to food safety regulations, certification programs, transportation and environmental issues, rulemaking from the seed board and more. Frequent updates will be sent to members along with action alerts as needed. There are several bills of interest:

- [SB 330](#): Seed Commissioner Rulemaking. This bill provides that the state seed commissioner may not adopt rules banning all varieties of Amaranthus. ACI supports this bill.

Last Monday, ACI lobbyist Mark Shublak testified before the Agriculture Committee about this bill. He spoke in favor of an amendment that would make sure that seeds are not added to the prohibited list. The amendment on the bill was adopted so that certain noxious weeds would be classified as restricted, not prohibited, and that labelling would be required. The amended bill will allow at least .25% by weight of certain prohibited seeds to exist in a mix. It was felt that this amendment was a reasonable compromise given the severity of a prohibited classification. Purdue University also spoke in favor of the amended bill.

- [SB 331](#): Implementation of Federal Food Safety Regulations. Brad McCord, member of the ACI Policy Committee, testified on behalf of ACI on Monday. He was in favor of the bill's amendment that would limit the scope of the bill so it can be applied consistently and with the least regulatory burden. The bill was amended and passed out of committee.
- [SB 384](#): Liens for Agricultural Supply Dealers. This bill establishes conditions concerning the creation of, priority of and enforcement of this new lien. This bill will not be heard.

- [HB 1012](#): Neonicotinoid Pesticides. Requires the pesticide review board to adopt rules prohibiting the use of neonicotinoids, which are certain insecticides having a chemical structure similar to the chemical structure of nicotine. This bill will not be heard.
- [HB 1098](#): Seed Commissioner and State Chemist. This bill provides that the state seed commissioner or state chemist may adopt emergency rules for a purpose for which the seed commissioner or state chemist is currently authorized to adopt rules under certain horticulture product and control laws. This bill was passed out of the House last week, and it was referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture.
- [HB1227](#): Noxious Weeds. This bill specifies that waterhemp, marestail, Palmer amaranth, and poison hemlock are noxious weeds for purposes of the weed control board law, which requires the weed control board to take all necessary and proper steps to control noxious weeds affecting agricultural production in Indiana. This bill was passed out of the House last week, and it was referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.

### **Washington Update**

This week, President Donald Trump gave his State of the Union address. Trump's State of the Union address was the third longest in history. It clocked at about an hour and twenty minutes. The full text of his speech can be found [here](#). Interestingly, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue served as the designated survivor during the speech and watched the address from an undisclosed location.

President Trump addressed issues that are sparking national debate in today's political climate such as immigration reform, tax reform, and partisanship. He consented to allowing children who were brought into the country illegally and are protected under DACA, known as "dreamers", to stay in this country in exchange for an increase in border control spending. He also celebrated the GOP's major tax reform for its contribution to the economy, calling it the "biggest tax cuts and reforms in American history." Finally, he urged unity of the Democratic and Republican parties.

Click here for the [Full House Session Calendar](#).

Click here for the [Full Senate Session Calendar](#).

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