



AGRICULTURE COUNCIL OF INDIANA NEWSLETTER

Promoting Agribusiness Policy in Indiana

March 2, 2018

Indiana General Assembly Week 9

There are only 2 weeks left in this year's legislative session. Committee deadlines have passed, and the Senate and House will conclude their regular work early next week, with conference committees starting immediately thereafter.

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. The following bills of interest are still alive:

- [SB 331](#): Implementation of Federal Food Safety Regulations. This bill was created to recognize the amendments by the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act. This bill passed out of the House unanimously, and has returned to the Senate for final action.
- [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 passed out of the Senate unanimously, and is headed to conference committee to work on the amendment that the Senate added to the bill, which added Powell amaranth, rough pigweed, and smooth pigweed to the list of noxious weeds for purposes of the weed control board law.

The following bills did not advance:

- [SB 330](#): Seed Commissioner Rulemaking. This bill provides that the State Seed Commissioner shall adopt rules to add Palmer amaranth, waterhemp, any pigweed seed, and any Amaranth seed to the list of restricted noxious weed seeds. It also specifies that Amaranthus seeds sold for certain purposes are excluded from the seed commissioner's rulemaking. It was agreed that this bill will not move forward because the state chemist

has already made changes in administrative rules that set forth the same guidelines on Amaranth seeds outlined in SB330.

- [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.

Administrative Rule on State Seed Commissioner

As mentioned above, SB 330 is not going to move forward because an administrative rule is proposed that will essentially do the same things that the bill would. The proposed rule adopts the USDA Federal Noxious Weed List and also repeals perennial peppergrass and Russian Knapweed from the proposed *prohibited* list.

This rule also prescribes the following list of *restricted* noxious weed seeds: bitter wintercress; buckhorn; cocklebur; corncockle; curled dock; dodder; Eastern black nightshade; field peppergrass; giant foxtail; horse nettle; mustard; oxeye daisy; pennycress; and Palmer Amaranth, waterhemp, and any pigweed seed or Amaranth seed. Amaranthus species that are sold as vegetable seed, edible grains for human consumption, or seed for ornamental landscape, however, are excluded from this rule.

There will be a public hearing on this administrative rule March 13 at 10:00 am at the Daniels Turf Center. Please contact Mark Shublak at mark.shublak@icemiller.com if you have any comments about the proposed rule.

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

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

Washington Report

Trump announces intention to set tariffs on steel and aluminum

Source: National Grain & Feed Association

President Donald Trump on March 1 said he intended to impose steep tariffs on imports of steel and aluminum products, causing major concerns in the agricultural industry and other business sectors about the repercussions for global trade and trade retaliation. [Read more](#)

NGFA supports legislation to restore important exceptions for grain facilities to the U.S. Grain Standards Act

Source: National Grain & Feed Association

The NGFA strongly supports legislation introduced in February that promotes certainty and customer service by reinforcing congressional intent regarding the official grain inspection exceptions process for domestic facilities within the grain, feed and processing industry.

[Read more](#)

NGFA alerts members on reporting combustible dust to EPA

Source: National Grain & Feed Association

The EPA recently updated its safety standards regarding hazardous chemicals, including combustible dust. [Read more](#)

White House Releases Infrastructure Plan Details

Source: The Fertilizer Institute

The White House released details on the President's infrastructure plan. The plan provides \$200 billion in federal funding which seeks to leverage over \$1 trillion in non-federal infrastructure spending. Overall, the goal is the create \$1.5 trillion in infrastructure spending (over ten years). Beyond spending, the plan seeks to streamline permitting of infrastructure projects. The President recently said in his State of the Union address to Congress that he would like to see project approvals take no more than two years.

The \$200 billion in federal expenditures would be used as follows:

· Incentives Program	\$100 Billion
· Rural Infrastructure Program	\$50 Billion
· Transformative Projects Program	\$20 Billion
· Expanding financing tools (TIFIA, WIFIA, RRIF)	\$20 Billion
· Federal Capital Revolving Fund	\$10 Billion

The following documents shed more light on the proposal.

- [2 page highlights](#)
- [5 page \(more details\)](#)
- [Legislative outline](#)
- [Factsheet](#)

Please contact Mark Shublak at mark.shublak@icemiller.com or Lesa Dietrick at lesa.dietrick@icemiller.com if you have any questions.