



AGRICULTURE COUNCIL OF INDIANA NEWSLETTER

Promoting Agribusiness Policy in Indiana

February 9, 2018

Indiana General Assembly Week 6

The Indiana General Assembly is halfway done with the 2018 short session, and legislators are enjoying their brief mid-session break. The deadlines for both the House and Senate third readings were last week. Bills approved by the full chamber in either the House or Senate will now move across the hallway to the other Chamber for consideration - House bills move to the Senate and Senate bills move to the House. Bills that do not pass 3rd reading in the Chamber where the bill was filed are dead, which means they are ineligible to be considered as a stand-alone proposal. However, the provisions included in a dead bill remain eligible to be amended into another bill that is still alive. 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 that are still alive:

- [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. This bill does not put these seeds on the prohibited list, and for that reason ACI supports this bill.

On Monday, this bill had its third hearing and passed out of the Senate unanimously. We will be monitoring its progress as it moves into the House.

- [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 allows the State Health Commissioner to enter and inspect certain produce farms and also requires certain produce farms to register with the Indiana State Department of Health. It further states that the ISDH can suspend the requirement to comply with the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act if the federal government does not provide any funds for the ISDH to administer and enforce the requirements.

On Monday, this bill had its third hearing and passed out of the Senate unanimously. We will be monitoring its progress as it moves into the House.

- [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 will be heard before the Senate Committee on Agriculture in the upcoming weeks.
- [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 will be heard by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources in the upcoming weeks.

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

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

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