AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL OF INDIANA NEWSLETTER
Promoting Agribusiness Policy in Indiana
March 31, 2017

Legislative Developments at the Indiana Statehouse

House Bill 1237 - Grain Buyers and Warehouse Licensing

On Monday, the Senate held a third reading vote for House Bill 1237- Grain Buyers and Warehouse Licensing. As the bill's sponsor, Senator Leising presented the bill. The bill passed by a vote of 49-0. The ACI lobby team has worked for several months to mitigate the possible harm of the introduced bill, and we believe that the current bill reflects the best possible legislative solution for our members.

Senate Bill 90 - Doing Business or Marketing as a Cooperative

Senate Bill 90 was heard in the House Committee on Commerce, Small Business, and Economic Development on Wednesday. The bill will make it unlawful for a business to advertise as a cooperative unless it has registered as a cooperative with the Indiana Secretary of State. An amendment was offered by Chairman Morris that confined the bill to co-ops only and removed language that provided for fines if there were violations. The bill passed out of committee by a vote of 8-0.

Senate Bill 515- Various Tax Matters

Senate Bill 515 is important to ACI members due to its provisions governing sales tax exemptions on agricultural equipment. ACI has actively participated in the drafting of SB 515 to ensure that the most expansive exemption was enacted. The bill passed on third reading by a vote of 93-1, and will be returned to the Senate for further action.

The last day for bills to be heard in committees is this Monday, April 3.

Five Bills You Should Know More About

HB 1234- Storage of Agricultural Ammonia
Provides for the regulation by the state chemist of farmer-owned facilities that store ammonia or ammonia solutions.

The Senate heard HB 1234 on Second Reading on Thursday, and the bill was ordered engrossed without amendments. HB 1234 will be eligible for Third Reading next week.

HB 1235- Regulation of Processed Manure Based Fertilizer
Requires the state chemist to adopt rules regulating the distribution of manure based fertilizer.

HB 1235 was heard on Second Reading in the Senate this week. Senator Leising offered an amendment; HB 1235 will be eligible for Third Reading next week.

SB 421- Above Ground Storage Tanks
Repeals the law requiring owners of certain above ground storage tanks to register their tanks with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

SB 421 passed by a vote of 95-0, and has been returned to the Senate without amendments.

HB 1018-Vehicle Operation
Forbids a transport vehicle from driving on a highway without being covered or otherwise secured. The bill provides an exception for transports containing agricultural commodities.

HB 1018 passed out of the House by a vote of 62-29, however it has not moved out of its assigned Senate committee.

HB 1447- Transportation of Agricultural Commodities
Prohibits the Bureau of Motor Vehicles from assessing points against CDL drivers for violating commercial size and weight limitations. Points assessed by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles against a person after December 31, 2015 are null and void.

HB 1447 passed out of the Senate by a vote of 50-0, and has been returned to the House with amendments.

In Other News…

President Trump Signs Executive Order

Last month, President Trump ordered federal agencies to review the "Waters of the United States" Rule. The President has attacked the federal regulation as a highly restrictive rule, and a prime example of federal overreach. "WOTUS" has been disfavored by many farmers and agribusinesses, and the new executive order will likely relieve some of the burden the rule has imposed on the agricultural industry.

Planting Season Reminder

It's that time of year again, and it's important to keep in mind some key tips on safety:

- Transport Safely
  - Be sure to use warning signs while using public roads. This will help keep drivers aware of the possible danger, and mitigate accidents.
- Follow the Label
  - Labels are important as they contain product warnings and directions for proper use.
- Maintain Equipment
  - Make sure your equipment is well maintained and that it's been inspected before seasonal use. If you had your equipment serviced before the end of last season, it does not mean the equipment is still in proper condition.

- Store Fuel Properly
    - Store fuel away from machinery and fire sources. Keeping your fuel containers secured ensures that damage is minimal in the event of a fire.
- Stay Healthy
    - Despite working long hours, agribusiness operators should still eat and sleep well. Sleep deprivation or malnutrition results in a deterioration of mental functions, meaning that equipment operation is more dangerous.
- Watch for Children
    - Noisy and large equipment can attract curious children. It's important to make sure your children are safely secured at all times.

Updated Key Dates for the 2017 General Assembly

April 3-House & Senate Bills Committee Report Deadline

April 5- House & Senate Bills Second Reading Deadline

April 6- House & Senate Bills Third Reading Deadline

April 21- Anticipated *Sine Die*

To review all bills ACI is tracking, click here: Link.

To read the full text of this session's bills, click here: Link.

Full calendars can be found at the following links: House Calendar & Senate Calendar.

Please direct any questions, comments, or edits of the Bill Track Report to Mark Shublak at (317)-236-5981; mark.shublak@icemiller.com or Lesa Dietrick at (317)-236-2252; lesa.dietrick@icemiller.com.