



## AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL OF INDIANA NEWSLETTER

*Promoting Agribusiness Policy in Indiana*

*February 10, 2017*

### **Legislative Developments From the Indiana Statehouse**

#### **House Bill 1237- Grain Buyers**

The House Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development heard HB 1237 on Thursday. Given the high level of competing interests on the bill, Chairman Lehe offered an amendment designed to find middle ground, Amendment #4.

ACI lobbyist, Mark Shublak, testified that the amendment addressed some of ACI's chief concerns about not having to notify customers when their coverage under the fund expires. However, he noted the current language, as amended, still have a requirement for grain buyers to provide educational material to customers when a contract is executed. This provision is unworkable and a heavy burden on agribusinesses. As this measure moves forward, ACI intends to work with legislators to remove this requirement

Amendment #4 was taken by consent. HB 1237 passed out of committee by a vote of 12-0. The bill now heads to the House floor where it is eligible for additional amendments and will presumably be voted out of the House next week.

Here are the main highlights of Amendment #4:

- Alters the future coverage of grain clause from 12 months to 15 months;
- Requires the board and agency to develop educational materials and that grain buyers or warehouse owners must provide this information to the grain producer; and,
- Requires all grain buying contracts contain notice provisions regarding the duration of coverage.

For the exact language of Amendment #4, please see the following [link](#).

To see the updated version of the bill, [click here](#).

#### **Senate Bill 476- Grain Buyers**

The Senate Committee on Agriculture met on Monday. This was an Amend and Vote hearing only. Amendment #3 was introduced by Senator Leising that would require:

- Future coverage of grain to be 15 months from 12 months;
- Retroactive coverage to be 18 months from 12 months;

- Educational information to be distributed to grain producers regarding the purpose of the fund, how to claim a refund, and how to reenter the program.

The language of the amended SB 476 can be found [here](#). The bill passed out of committee unanimously. SB 476 was not amended on the floor, and will likely be scheduled for a third reading vote soon.

As these bills continue to progress in the second half of session, ACI will work to limit the administrative burden on agribusinesses and limit the impact of retroactive provisions to the last failure while making sure no unintended consequences arise by creating these changes

At this time ACI is monitoring the legislation closely. Our chief concerns are being addressed and we may call on members in the future to connect directly with their legislators about the bill.

### **House Bill 1002- Transportation Infrastructure**

This week the House Ways and Means Committee passed HB 1002 by a vote of 14-9. Two Republicans (Reps. Clere and Davisson) and all Democrats present at the time voted against the bill (Rep. Klinker was excused). The committee did approve an amendment offered by Chairman Tim Brown that moves all the sales tax collected on fuel purchases to the highway accounts beginning in FY 2018, rather than phasing this in over four years. This is a positive amendment as it means more funds will be available sooner for roads and bridges development.

Representative Ed Soliday, chairman of the Roads and Transportation Committee, explained the bill and Chairman Brown also allowed limited testimony.

HB 1002 will be eligible for a second reading vote by the full House sometime next week.

### **Senate Bill 90- Doing Business or Marketing a Cooperative**

Senate Bill 90, authored by Senator Leising, is a bill that would prevent a business from marketing as a cooperative without legitimately being a cooperative, and is expected to be on its third reading next week.

***Please note that the House Committee Report deadline is Tuesday, February 21, and the Senate Committee Report deadline is Thursday, February 23.***

Full calendars can be found at the following links: [House Calendar](#) & [Senate Calendar](#).

### **Federal Updates**

The Agribusiness Council of Indiana has signed onto a letter to President Trump regarding rural infrastructure. It calls for the Administration's support for rebuilding infrastructure in rural America. The letter was circulated by the Agriculture Retailers Association and signed by national rural and agriculture organizations, state agribusiness and grower associations and more.

### **Join the ACI Legislative Calls**

All members are welcome to join the ACI Legislative Call each month for an update from the ACI Government Affairs Team. The calls are the first Friday of each month at 2:00 p.m. eastern.

Number: 1-888-872-3603

Passcode: 317.236.5981

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