

HB1082 ENVIRONMENTAL RULES AND POLICIES (WOLKINS D) Requires the department of environmental management (IDEM) to report annually to the legislative council: (1) any administrative rule adopted by the environmental rules board (board) or proposed by IDEM; (2) any operating policy or procedure instituted or altered by IDEM; and (3) any nonrule policy or statement put into effect by IDEM; during the previous year that constitutes a change in the policy previously followed by IDEM under the provisions of IC 13 and the rules adopted by the board. Provides that, if notice given by IDEM concerning a proposed rule identifies an element of the proposed rule that imposes a restriction or requirement more stringent than a restriction or requirement imposed under federal law, the proposed rule does not become effective until the adjournment sine die of the regular session of the general assembly that begins after IDEM provides the notice. Provides an exception for the adoption of emergency rules in response to emergency situations.

Current Status: 3/10/2016 - Signed by the President Pro Tempore

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HB1246 VARIOUS NATURAL RESOURCES MATTERS (EBERHART S) Removes from the natural resources commission duties to administer parts of the flood control program and the flood control revolving fund. (Current law provides that the Indiana finance authority (authority) administer the program and fund.) Provides that an application to have land classified as native forest land, a forest plantation, or wildlands must be handled by the county assessor. (Current law requires the county auditor to handle the applications.) Provides that a person who operates certain boats that do not have an aft light commits a Class C infraction. Prohibits the use of unmanned aerial vehicles to scout game during the period beginning 14 days before the beginning of the hunting season and ending upon the expiration of legal hunting hours on the last day of the hunting season. Changes the name of the public information and education division of the department of natural resources (DNR) to the communications division. Specifies the type of flotation device that a person on a boat or personal watercraft must have. Amends the list of law enforcement offices that may be notified of a boating accident. Provides that the violation of certain boating rules is a Class C infraction. Allows the operator of a nonregistered off-road vehicle or a snowmobile from another state or country to purchase a trail use tag to operate on designated trails and properties. Allows the director of DNR to authorize the taking of wild animals on historic site property if certain conditions are met. Removes DNR's authority to issue commemorative migratory waterfowl and game bird habitat restoration stamps. Allows the manager of a public use airport, or the manager's designee, to trap coyotes and migratory birds without a license if the coyotes or birds pose a threat to aircraft. Repeals the dog training ground permit statute. Removes a provision concerning the application of hunter orange requirements during certain hunting seasons. Provides that a ginseng dealer who purchases or sells ginseng for resale or exportation without a license commits a Class B misdemeanor. Amends certain lien procedures on complete projects to restore or prevent adverse effects of past coal mining practices on privately owned land. Adds conservancy districts and certain wastewater treatment systems to the participants that may qualify for loans or other financial assistance. Removes the total loan limit, loan period, and fixed interest rate to a participant. Allows the authority to establish interest rates for each loan. Increases the registration fees for timber buyers and agents of timber buyers. Repeals a provision concerning the transition of rulemaking authority from the natural resources commission to the Indiana finance authority with respect to the administration of the flood control revolving fund.

Current Status: 3/10/2016 - Signed by the President Pro Tempore

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HB1273 **VARIOUS PROPERTY TAX MATTERS** (LEONARD D) Requires assessing officials to maintain geographic information system characteristics of real property parcels and to transmit that data annually to the geographic information office of the office of technology. Provides that personal property is exempt from property taxation if it is owned by a homeowners association and is held by the homeowners association for the use, benefit, or enjoyment of members of the homeowners association. Provides that a county auditor may accept a deduction application for a property tax abatement deduction only if the designating body has specified an abatement schedule for the deduction. Prohibits a taxing unit from transferring property tax receipts to the property tax assessment appeals fund if the property tax receipts are: (1) held in a debt service fund; or (2) treated as levy excess. Removes phrasing to emphasize that a political subdivision may not base an excess levy appeal on normal population growth. Removes obsolete provisions concerning excess levy appeals by political subdivisions. Modifies certain responsibilities of the division of data analysis of the department of local government finance. Authorizes the fiscal body of a township that is located next to certain counties or townships to pass a resolution to place on the ballot a local public question on whether the fiscal body of the eligible county should be required to fund and carry out a public transportation project in the township. Provides that if a public question regarding public transportation projects is defeated in a township, the fiscal body of the township may adopt a resolution to place another such public question on the ballot at a subsequent general election in the township, but specifies that such a public question may not be placed on the ballot in the township more than two times in any seven year period. Specifies the conditions under which a county fiscal body may impose an additional tax rate on county taxpayers who reside in a township that approves a local public question. Authorizes the provider unit in a fire protection territory to negotiate for and hold debt for the equipment replacement fund of a fire protection territory. Authorizes a participating unit in a fire protection territory to acquire fire protection equipment or other property and make the property available to the provider unit. Specifies the adjustments to the maximum permissible levy for a unit that ceases participation in a fire protection territory. Specifies the minimum number of taxpayers that must object to the imposition or increase of a tax rate for an equipment replacement fund of a fire protection territory. Authorizes a library to issue library cards at no charge to college students who attend a college in the library district. Requires a library to prorate the cost of a library card that is valid for less than one year. Allows a nonprofit entity that missed the applicable deadlines to claim the property tax exemptions to which it would otherwise have been entitled to submit the necessary paperwork to claim the exemptions. Repeals a provision authorizing a county fiscal body to adopt an ordinance to allow local agencies to require a person applying for a property tax exemption, a property tax deduction, a zoning change or zoning variance, a building permit, or any other locally issued license or permit to submit a uniform property tax disclosure form with the person's application for the property tax exemption, property tax deduction, zoning change or zoning variance, building permit, or other locally issued license or permit.

Current Status: 3/10/2016 - Conference Committee Report Adopted (S) Report
1: adopted by the Senate; Roll Call 406: yeas 50, nays 0; Rules
Suspended

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HB1372 **PUBLIC PERSONNEL BONDS AND STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS** (LEHMAN M) Amends the law requiring surety bonds for certain individuals having public fiscal responsibilities to: (1) define "contractor"; (2) allow for filing of the bond in the county of office or employment rather than residence; (3) set threshold amounts of public funds for which a bond is required; (4) permit the use of a schedule bond; (5) permit the use of a

continuous bond; and (6) require a crime insurance policy that meets the requirement to include a faithful performance endorsement. Allows, rather than requires, the commissioner of insurance to prescribe the form of public official surety bonds and crime insurance policies. Provides that any claim under a continuous bond must be brought not later than six years after the occurrence giving rise to the claim. Specifies the following: (1) That the maximum aggregate liability of the surety or insurer for a policy year is the penal sum of the bond. (2) That in the case of a continuous bond, the maximum aggregate liability of the surety or insurer for the entire term that the bond is in effect is the penal sum of the bond for the current term of the bond and the penal sums of the bond for the five immediately preceding years. Allows, in certain circumstances, the state examiner to issue an examination final report less than 45 days after an initial exit conference. Allows certain individuals who receive state board of accounts records to divulge the records in an action with respect to the misappropriation or diversion of public funds. Removes requirements for annual audits by the state examiner of certain funds and allows the audits to be performed according to the state examiner's schedule. Makes conforming amendments.

Current Status: 3/10/2016 - Conference Committee Report Adopted (S) Report 1: adopted by the Senate; Roll Call 396: yeas 50, nays 0

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SB308

LOCAL TAX MATTERS (HERSHMAN B) Provides that when calculating the base rate for agricultural land for the January 1, 2016, assessment date and each assessment date thereafter, the department of local government finance (DLGF) shall do the following: (1) Use the six most recent years preceding the year in which the assessment date occurs for which data is available (before the highest of those six years is eliminated when determining the rolling average). (2) After determining a preliminary base rate that would apply for the assessment date, adjust the preliminary base rate as follows: (A) If the preliminary base rate for the assessment date would be at least 10% greater than the final base rate determined for the preceding assessment date, a capitalization rate of 8% shall be used to determine the final base rate. (B) If the preliminary base rate for the assessment date would be at least 10% less than the final base rate determined for the preceding assessment date, a capitalization rate of 6% shall be used to determine the final base rate. (C) If the preliminary base rate for the assessment date is neither at least 10% greater nor at least 10% less than the final base rate determined for the preceding assessment date, a capitalization rate of 7% shall be used to determine the final base rate. Specifies that for purposes of the assessment of agricultural land, the soil productivity factors used for the March 1, 2011, assessment date shall be used for the January 1, 2016, assessment date and each assessment date thereafter. (Under current law, new soil productivity factors are to be used for assessment dates occurring after March 1, 2015.) Deletes the requirement that an assessor shall examine and verify the accuracy of each personal property tax return filed by a taxpayer. Provides instead that an assessor may examine and verify the accuracy of a personal property tax return if the assessor considers the examination and verification of that personal property return to be useful to the accuracy of the assessment process. Increases the assessed value per acre of classified forest land, classified windbreaks, and classified filter strips from \$1 per acre to \$13.29 per acre for the January 1, 2017, assessment date. For assessment dates after January 1, 2017, increases the assessed value by the annual percentage change in the consumer price index. Adds certain types of property to the exemption for property used for public airport purposes. Authorizes a county fiscal body to adopt an ordinance to capture taxes from all taxing units in a taxing district when there is an appeal that is uncommon and infrequent. Specifies that such a taxing unit may not include these captured taxes as part of an appeal for a shortfall levy increase. Provides an exemption from the maximum property tax levy limits for a municipality in a year if: (1) the percentage growth in the municipality's assessed value for the preceding year compared to the year before the preceding year is at

least two times the assessed value growth quotient; and (2) the municipality's population increased by at least 150% between the last two decennial censuses. Specifies that such a municipality may increase its property tax levy in excess of the levy limits by a percentage equal to the lesser of 6% or the percentage growth in the municipality's assessed value for the preceding year compared to the year before the preceding year. Provides that Cain Township in Fountain County may increase its maximum township unit levy and its maximum levy for fire protection and emergency services for 2017. Limits the increase to what each of these levies would be for 2017 if the township had imposed the maximum amount for each of these levies since 2003. Permits the fiscal body of Howard Township in Washington County to adopt a resolution to authorize the township executive to request that the DLGF increase the township's maximum permissible property tax levy for 2017 and thereafter. Requires the DLGF to increase the maximum levy by 10%. Permits a county fiscal body to impose a local income tax (LIT) rate for a public safety emergency assistance answering point that is part of the statewide 911 system (PSAP) if the adopting body in the county is the LIT council and the LIT council has not allocated the revenue from an expenditure rate of at least 0.1% to a PSAP in the county. Specifies that the rate may not exceed 0.1%. Specifies that the revenue generated by the rate is to be paid only to the county unit and used only for a PSAP. Allows a county to use excess reserves in its prisoner reimbursement fund for the costs of care, maintenance, and housing of prisoners, including the cost of housing prisoners in the facilities of another county. Expires under the tax increment financing law the downtown Indianapolis consolidated allocation area on January 1, 2051. Urges a study of the topic of allowing an exemption from the maximum levy limits for growing municipalities by the interim study committee on fiscal policy.

Current Status: 3/10/2016 - Conference Committee Report Adopted (S) Report 1: adopted by the Senate; Roll Call 414: yeas 44, nays 6; Rules Suspended

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SB347

WATER RESOURCES (CHARBONNEAU E) Repeals the law requiring all water utilities to annually report to the utility regulatory commission on the utilities' operations and maintenance costs in providing water service to their customers. Requires the Indiana finance authority (authority), before November 1, 2017, to prepare and submit in an electronic format to the executive director of the legislative services agency a report on non-revenue water (the difference between the volume of water entering a water distribution system and the volume of water consumption billed to customers served by the water distribution system) and water loss in Indiana. Requires the authority to perform a quality assurance review of the water resources data compiled from the reports submitted annually by owners of significant water withdrawal facilities for all calendar years since 1985, and to present the results of its quality assurance review as those results become available to the water rights and use section of the division of water of the department of natural resources. Requires the authority to study, analyze, and report to the executive director of the legislative services agency by November 1, 2016, on the infrastructure needs of Indiana's water utilities.

Current Status: 2/29/2016 - Returned to the Senate without amendments

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