



INDIANA BLACK LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

2019 Legislative Agenda

January 7 | 11:30 AM
Indiana General Assembly

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Traffic Amnesty | State Rep. Robin Shackelford

Nearly 500,000 Hoosiers currently have their driving privileges suspended due to unpaid financial obligations. These obligations include everything from parking fines to traffic violations to reinstatement fees. A suspended driver's license prevents people from maintaining a regular job, keeping financial commitments and helping other family members. This bill would establish a traffic amnesty program that would reduce the amount of unpaid obligations based on a person's income. It would allow productive residents to regain their licenses immediately and provide additional revenue for local services.

Pilot Program for Parent Education Assistance | State Rep. John Bartlett

Pilot program offering \$15 per hour to any parent that receives government assistance, to obtain childcare while attending school or a trade program. There will be a volunteering component that will require the parent to volunteer in their child's school in order to meet the requirements for the program. The program provides funding for child care, support of educational goals, and increased parental involvement in their child's school, and ultimately leads to self-sufficiency and no longer requiring government assistance.

Equal Pay Wage Disclosure | State Rep. Carolyn B. Jackson

This bill would make it an unlawful employment practice to pay wages that discriminate based on sex for similar work. Further, it would secure an employee's ability to inquire about, disclose, compare, or otherwise discuss their wages. This bill additionally provides that the Civil Rights Commission would have jurisdiction to review any disputes and allegations of wage discrimination.

SOCIAL AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Racial Profiling Bill | State Rep. Cherrish Pryor

Racial profiling and pretextual stops. Prohibits a law enforcement agency or a law enforcement officer from engaging in racial profiling or conducting pretextual stops. Requires a law enforcement agency to adopt a detailed policy that defines the elements of racial profiling and pretextual stops; and requires a law enforcement agency to collect certain data relating to stops made by law enforcement officers. Requires cultural diversity awareness training and training on unlawful racial profiling and pretextual stops for law enforcement officers. Specifies that a law enforcement agency shall transmit to the attorney general information concerning racial profiling complaints, investigations, and any action taken, as well as data collected relating to stops made by the law enforcement agency.

Bias Crimes | State Sen. Greg Taylor and State Rep. Gregory W. Porter

Allows an individual that suffers a personal injury or property damage because of a criminal offense to bring forth a civil action to recover damages, if the person who committed the offense selected the individual because of the individual's actual or perceived race, color, creed, disability, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity. Establishes a sentencing procedure that requires the court to impose an additional fixed term of imprisonment, if the crime was committed based on bias.

SOCIAL AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Driver Instructions on Traffic Stops | State Sen. Lonnie Randolph

Legislation that will require driver instruction on law enforcement procedures during traffic stops. Requires that the driver license handbook include a description of law enforcement procedures during traffic stops and the actions that a motorist should take during a traffic stop, including appropriate interactions with law enforcement officers. Requires that the handbook be provided free of charge for use in a program of driver education offered at public high schools.

Residency of Public Safety Officers | State Rep. Ragen Hatcher

Legislation that provides that a city may adopt an ordinance requiring a member of the police or fire department to reside within the municipality within a specific time period, but no sooner than six months after the ordinance is adopted, or a member is hired by the department.

HEALTH ACCESS

Sickle Cell Disease Grant Program | State Rep. Gregory W. Porter

The bill requires that sickle cell disease centers providing care to underserved areas be opened in all regions of the state. The bill will give financial assistance to low income residents for sickle cell disease care. The bill will provide free counseling to residents for the symptoms and care of the sickle cell disease and establish an educational outreach program. The bill establishes that the State Department of Health will issue a report every two years detailing the many factors associated with the sickle cell disease in Indiana.

Study on Housing and Food Insecurity Among College Students | State Rep. Earl Harris Jr.

Conduct a study regarding the prevalence of homelessness, housing insecurity, and food insecurity among students at Indiana colleges and universities during the 2019 academic year. Provides that the study must determine, as accurately as practicable, the number of Indiana college and university students who are homeless, housing insecure, or food insecure. Provides that the: Family and Social Services Administration; Department of Child Services; The Indiana Institute for Working Families; Department of Education; Commission for Higher Education; Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority; and state educational institutions, including Private Indiana colleges and universities; report provided to the governor; and the legislative counsel in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

HEALTH ACCESS

Violent Crime as a Public Health Issue | State Rep. Vanessa Summers

This legislation would create a Summer Study Committee formed around this issue. Gun violence is a significant public health danger that has devastating effects both nationally and in this state. It is responsible for many deaths including those of children.

CDC Youth Risk Behaviors Survey | State Sen. Jean Breaux

Legislation that would require public high schools contacted by the CDC to take part in their "Youth Risk Behaviors Survey," to actually participate in administering and completing the survey. The completed survey provides excellent data on the youth of our state and their health and wellbeing.

EDUCATIONAL OBTAINMENT

Teacher Salary Increase | State Sen. Eddie Melton

Teachers in Indiana are not valued for the important work they do for our next generation of workers. Sen. Melton is proposing we increase teacher salaries to both combat our rising teacher shortage crisis by making the field more enticing to future educators as well as send a message to current teachers that we value their efforts on behalf of our children.

Distressed Units Appeal Board | State Rep. Vernon G. Smith

Current law requires House and Senate minority leaders to alternate every other year when appointing minority party members to the Distressed Units Appeal Board. This legislation provides that both the Senate and the House minority leaders can appoint members annually.

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