



INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF
soil and water conservation
DISTRICTS

Legislative Update
February 13, 2024

From Cress: Break time at the Statehouse! Both chambers finished work yesterday on bills meeting Third Reading deadlines, thus moving them across the rotunda to start over again. **The most controversial bill is 1383 Wetlands** and see the stories below, along with attached document sharing history of this legislative issue. **Very rare to see a bill hit the Governor's desk this fast!** I will update and have a new Bill Tracker 2/16.

Friday was the deadline for candidates to get on the May primary ballot in Indiana, so we'll soon have a more accurate picture of the people we will be able to vote for when it comes to president, governor, senator, house and a host of other elected positions. Thanks, Cress

[Bill further rolling back wetland protection lands on Holcomb's desk:](#)

"Republican state lawmakers have quietly fast-tracked a contentious bill that will further strip protections on some Indiana wetlands. It's the first piece of legislation to head to the governor's desk during this session of the Indiana Legislature. [House Bill 1383](#) reduces wetland protection by shifting some Class III wetlands-which are currently protected-down to Class II, which have far fewer safeguards. Sen. Rick Niemeyer, R-Lowell, who sponsored the bill, says it will reduce impediments to buying homes or running businesses without significantly impacting the state's wetlands. [Casey Smith of Indiana Capital Chronicle has more.](#)"

Below are bills still alive from our Tracker and are being assigned to committees:

House:

- * [HB 1383: Wetlands](#)
- * [HB 1394: DNR best available flood hazard data](#). <<Hot topic
- * [HB 1401: Various natural resources matters](#)
- * [HB 1417: Agricultural matters](#)

Senate:

- * [SB 105: Updated Indiana Drainage Handbook.](#)
- * [SB 140: Logjam removal.](#) <<Drainage continues to be a hot topic
- * [SB 149: Tobacco sales.](#) <<Very small portion of this revenue goes to CWI
- * [SB 206: IDEM agency bill.](#)
- * [SB 246: Assessment of wetlands classified as wildlands.](#) <<IASWCD supports this bill as
it incentivizes voluntary conservation practices
- * [SB 247: Water and wastewater utility infrastructure.](#)