



**March 16, 2017**

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE -2017 TRACKER REPORT #4**

Wow! How time flies by! I know many of you have been waiting for another legislative activity report, and I've been busy just trying to follow everything that's happening. I had intended to wait until the legislative second deadline had passed (which is tomorrow evening) but there are so many bills on Committee schedules for the next few days that it will take some time to go through them. Next week however, we will have a fairly good idea of what new bills may have a chance for consideration on the Legislative floor, and what will probably sit until the next year of the Session. As you all know, we have new leadership in both chambers this year with the Republicans having full control, so there is a little variance in way bills are being processed.

We can readily see that our Legislature has been busy. As of today, this is the tally of bill introductions:

**House: 2448 introductions / 152 in Public Safety Policy and Finance**

**Senate: 2177 introductions / 211 in Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety**

Only a very small percentage of these bills have been heard in various Committees. The first deadline passed last Friday which required bills to be passed by Committee for further consideration. The second deadline this week requires that bills or companion of bills from the other chamber must receive Committee approval. Major appropriations and all finance bills must be favorably acted upon by the third deadline which is March 31st. So far this year we're seeing very few bills in the House being placed on the General Register, which means they're ready to be placed on the calendar of the day for debate on the floor. Chairman Cornish has been laying over most bills from his Committee for possible inclusion in "a possible" Committee Omnibus bill. One could make the observation that this is a way to avoid controversy and leave the future of a bill up to the negotiations of just a few Legislators who will decide what gets placed into the Omnibus bills. This is also a good method to just leave a bill dormant without further action this year. Most of the bills of our interest in this Committee have been placed in that status so we won't know what happens until the end of the Session.

I have been monitoring the progress of about 45-50 bills that I feel our membership would want to be appraised on, so I want to now make mention of many of them. These are all bills pertaining to Public Safety and Corrections so I am not commenting on those "hot button" issues our Legislators seem to want to spend their valuable time with.

**HF 033/SF 368** - a bill which would require legislative approval of any modifications of the Sentencing Guidelines. This bill was approved by both the Public Safety and Government Operations Committees, and received a Second Reading on 3/13. There has been no movement thus far in the Senate.

**HF 179 / SF 347** - this is the Ignition Interlock legislation that prohibits tracking capabilities. This bill has been passed by six committees in the House and is now the Ways and Means Committee. The Senate companion bill has passed two Committees, received a Second Reading and is ready for floor discussion.

**HF 238 / SF 292** - the Use of Force bill in defense of home and car. The bill has 29 co-authors in the House but has not moved forward at this point.

**HF 261 / SF322** -a de-escalation training bill for community safety personnel, with a appropriation, has been laid over for possible inclusion in an Omnibus bill. The Senate version has also been approved by one Committee and is now in Judiciary and Public Safety.

**HF 390 /SF 676** -penalties increased for obstructing traffic on a highway or airport. Both bill have been approved in Committee and now await floor action.

**HF 630/SF 503-** provides dollars for child out-of-home placement costs under the Indian Child Welfare Act. This is moving forward in both chambers and we expect this provision to be adopted.

**HF 660/SF 459-** Youth Intervention programming funding. Surprisingly, no action has been taken in either chamber. I've been told that this may appear in the final finance bills.

**HF 713/SF 613 and HF 714** are similar bills pertaining to sex trafficking and provides a Safe Harbor. The House bill is progressing, no action in the Senate.

**HF 813/SF 1029** -gives County Probation Officers authorization to supervise adult felons. This bill was heard in Public Safety and despite some reservations from the DOC, was laid over for possible inclusion in the Omnibus bill.

**HF 857/SF817** -makes inmate case planning private data. It has been approved by both Civil Law and Public Safety and had a Second Reading on 3/13 in the House.

**HF 951 /no Senate bill** -a bill introduced by Rep. Ray Dehn is the Restore the Vote bill. No action has been noted.

**HF 1572/SF 1895** - eliminates the Stay of Adjudication and stay of Imposition in sex cases. It was approved by the House Committee and laid over for possible inclusion in the Omnibus bill. No Senate action yet.

**HF 1654/SF 1598** -Rep. Marion O'Neill's bill on Domestic Abuse by Strangulation added to list of offenses that can impact custody, visitation rights and parental planning. It has passed one House Committee and passed the Senate Judiciary on 3/14 and received a Second Reading. This bill will most likely pass.

**HF 1702/SF 1386** -cites that Children 10 and older have a right to counsel and waiver of counsel must be in written form. This has passed two Committees in the House and is now on the General Register. Senate action is pending.

There are another dozen bills I've been tracking but have not been scheduled for hearing.

Once the Second deadline passes tomorrow, you can expect the Legislature to make a sudden major shift to longer floor sessions with passage of a two year state budget the top priority. Ironically, nobody even wants to talk about a Bonding Bill. It will be interesting and there will be an extended Easter break in early April.

As you know, I have also been paying close attention to the work of the Commission on Pensions and Retirement and I will discuss some of that with you in a separate report. Thanks for your support, and questions are always welcome!

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