

IASB Legislative Report 104-32

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This Week at the Capitol

The Senate returned to Springfield this week with the House taking the week off. Senate committees have turned their attention to House bills. IASB worked on many of those bills in the House to remove opposition.

Two highly discussed bills did not move forward this week. The first was **HB910**, the MegaProject legislation that would create a framework for the Chicago Bears to build a new stadium. The Senate indicated that this bill will not be rushed and that additional negotiations will take place in the Senate. The second was **HJRCA28**, the redistricting constitutional amendment, which was paused this week with the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision on voting rights. Senate President Harmon stated that the Senate needed time to review the ruling and develop the best response.

IASB has been working on final amendments to several bills that have moved to the other chamber and still have issues that need to be addressed. Next week promises to be busy, with both the House and Senate in session and Committee deadlines for both chambers scheduled for May 8.

Call to Action: Notice to Remedy (SB2914)

A great deal of IASB's attention has gone to **SB2914** (Cappel, Moeller), which is scheduled in the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee: Administration, Licensing & Charters on Wednesday, May 6 at 2 p.m. IASB urges members to file a witness slip and to contact their Representative to express opposition to this bill. IASB has numerous concerns with this bill. The most significant include:

1. **Student Safety.** SB2914 puts student safety and well-being at risk. The Notice to Remedy is a critical tool for school boards to address concerning behavior early and

set clear expectations before it escalates into more serious misconduct. Early intervention is especially important with student-staff boundary violations, to prevent that behavior from escalating to more serious behaviors such as grooming or sexual misconduct. Also, if these cases go to arbitration, students may be expected to participate in adversarial hearings without appropriate accommodations. Many students will not participate and that means teacher misconduct may go unaddressed. Finally, SB2914 allows the arbitrator unlimited scope in both decision-making and determining a remedy, including potentially requiring the removal of the Notice to Remedy from the personnel file.

2. **Loss of Critical Employment Rights.** One of the primary duties and responsibilities of elected boards of education is to employ school personnel and make critical employment decisions. SB2914 shifts (or potentially invalidates) employment decision-making away from locally elected school boards to an outside individual who is not accountable to the school community. A Notice to Remedy is not a disciplinary action. It states expectations and behaviors to be remedied. The board's decision to issue a corrective employment notice should not be subject to binding arbitration.
3. **Binding arbitration.** It is important to note that SB2914 imposes binding arbitration on school board decisions with no option for appeal. Arbitration is typically agreed to by two parties and memorialized in an agreement such as a Collective Bargaining Agreement. Statutorily imposing binding arbitration on school boards is extremely concerning.

This is a nuanced issue, but an extremely important one for elected school boards in managing teacher misconduct. House members need to be made aware of this bill's impact on member districts and students. Please call or email your House member and file a witness slip before 2 p.m. on May 6.

Advocacy Ambassadors

The next monthly Advocacy Ambassadors Meeting is Friday, May 15 at noon. If you are not yet an Advocacy Ambassador, [sign up on the IASB website](#). To register for this webinar, visit the IASB [Events Calendar](#).

Federal Advocacy Conference

We hope you'll join IASB in Washington, D.C., September 21-23 for the [COSSBA Federal Advocacy Conference](#). This is a wonderful opportunity to advocate on behalf of the students in your district to help legislators understand the value of federal funding and how proposals to reduce federal funding impact Illinois students.

Illinois Association of School Boards

2921 Baker Drive,
Springfield, Illinois 62703-5929
(217) 528-9688

One Imperial Place, 1 East 22nd Street, Suite 310,
Lombard, Illinois 60148
(630) 629-3776

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