

Higher Education

House Enrolled Act 1193 – Adult education

House Enrolled Act 1193, authored by Representative Greg Simms (D- Valparaiso), creates an interim study committee on adult education. The committee will aim to solve the funding problems faced by many adult education programs throughout the state. In its introduced version, the proposed legislation would have established a reimbursement program for school corporations, such as those in Portage, Indiana, that accept out-of-district students. As lawmakers reviewed the bill, though, they determined that adult education funding was a statewide problem. The decision was then made to create a summer study committee to review the issue more fully. Through the formation of a summer study committee, state lawmakers will be able to determine the best way to help cash-strapped adult education programs throughout the state.

"It is disappointing that we won't be able to take immediate action to help Portage's adult education system, but I remain confident that by studying the issue during the interim, we will come up with a more viable solution that will benefit all school districts across the state," Simms said. The bill was signed into law by Governor Daniels on March 3rd.

TechPoint's agenda in part seeks to increase education levels for all Indiana citizens. Because a substandard educational system endangers the future quality of life for students and the State, TechPoint encourages Indiana legislators to adopt programs which better meet the needs of adult learners and conform to adult learning styles.

House Enrolled Act 1051 – School corporation donations to foundations.

House Enrolled Act 1051, authored by Representative Crooks (D- Washington) permits a school corporation to annually donate not more than \$25,000 to a community foundation if the donation is matched by a private donor. The previous law permitted school corporations to make matched donations only to public school endowment corporations. The bill was signed into law on February 22nd.

TechPoint believes this legislation will be helpful to the TechPoint Foundation, which has partnered with several public schools to promote a new Tech High curriculum.

House Bill 1246 - Dual credit programs, student graduation plan, and virtual learning.

House Bill 1246, authored by Representative Terri Jo Austin (D- Anderson) establishes the concurrent enrollment partnership to coordinate dual credit programs among Indiana high schools and state educational institutions. The measure, if passed, will change the student career plan to the student graduation plan. The bill also creates an interim study committee on K-12 virtual learning.

Senate Enrolled Act 111 – Graduation rate formula

Senate Enrolled Act 111, authored by Senate President Pro Tem David Long (R- Fort Wayne), specifies that students graduating as members of a cohort include students from the cohort who graduate during the expected graduation year or during a previous reporting year. The act provides that students may count as graduating members of only one cohort. The act, which corrects an incorrect cross-reference, has been signed by both the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tem and was received by the Governor on March 10th.

TechPoint supports programs that promote academic excellence among Hoosier youth. High school graduates must have the 21st Century skills necessary to succeed in whatever endeavor they pursue and,

in every instance, should be encouraged to graduate from high school and pursue post-secondary education of some sort. This technical corrections bill will help assure accurate reporting of graduation rates and compliance with new standards promoted by the National Governors Association. It will also provide information to verify or deny claims by school administrators that large numbers of high school students are remaining in high school for more than four years or are graduating after five, six, or more years. It is anticipated that the Governor will approve this legislation and sign it into law.