

INDIANA BUILDERS ASSOCIATION
Legislative and Regulatory Report #10
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HIGHLIGHTS

FINAL WEEK IN THE LEGISLATURE

The 2008 General Assembly is scheduled to adjourn next Friday, March 14th at 11:59 p.m. IBA is working to resolve issues on a number of bills including: property tax reform, immigration reform, green building mandates, lead in homes, homeowner association liens, employee classification, impact fees for severe weather warning sirens and the ability of builders to own their own mortgage company. A complete wrap-up will be e-mailed early during the week of the 17th.

SENATOR LOSES BATTLE WITH CANCER

State Senator David Ford (R-Hartford City) passed away Wednesday morning after losing his battle to cancer. Ford held various positions during his 14 years in the Senate and will be remembered by many as being a leader in technology and economic development issues. Ford was a supporter of IBA's issues and filed the statewide construction registry legislation this year. Ford's district includes all or part of Adams, Allen, Blackford, Grant, and Wells Counties.

SENATOR ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION

State Senator Jeff Drozda (R-Westfield) announced his plans to resign his seat in June or July due to a relocation of employment to South Carolina. Drozda has been very involved in a number of important issues which include annexation, eminent domain, and property rights. Drozda's district includes all or part of Boone, Hamilton, Howard, and Tipton Counties.

MODEL HOME ACT BEING SENT TO THE GOVERNOR

House Bill 1164, the Model Home Act, was approved by a vote of 88-2 in the House on its final passage this week, sending the bill to the Governor's desk for approval. The final version of the bill allows for a 50% property tax deduction on the structure of a model or spec home for up to three years or until sold. The bill also provides that the model or spec cannot be used as a primary office by the builder and limits the deduction to three properties at a time. The Governor will have seven days to sign or veto the bill once it is received by his office and IBA is working to ensure the Governor's approval.
<http://www.in.gov/apps/lisa/session/billwatch/billinfo?year=2008&request=getBill&docno=1164>

PROPERTY TAX REFORM NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE

Lawmakers continued negotiations on House Bill 1001, the property tax reform proposal and SJR 1 which puts property tax caps in the constitution. The House and Senate are optimistic a compromise will be reached before session adjourns next Friday.

ARCHEOLOGY BILL SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

House Bill 1129 which deals with artifacts, burial grounds and time provided to the Department of Natural Resources for responding to calls of a potential site once it is unearthed was signed by the Governor this week.

<http://www.in.gov/apps/lisa/session/billwatch/billinfo?year=2008&session=1&request=getBill&docno=1129>

REGISTRY BILL SENT TO GOVERNOR

Senate Bill 257, the summer study committee legislation to further explore the idea of creating a statewide construction registry for Mechanic's liens was approved 46-0 this week. The bill now moves to the Governor for his approval. IBA expects he will sign the measure.

<http://www.in.gov/apps/lisa/session/billwatch/billinfo?year=2008&request=getBill&docno=257>

NAHB

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE COMING AT A PIVOTAL TIME FOR HOUSING

Builders looking to send a message to Congress that it needs to take action to jump-start housing and the economy should mark their calendar now for the most important grassroots event of the year –the 2008 NAHB Legislative Conference-which will take place on Wednesday, April 30 in Washington D.C. leading into the association's spring board meeting. Builders are encouraged to travel to the nation's capital and urge their representatives and senators to support policies that will stabilize the housing market, help reduce foreclosures, restore confidence in the credit markets and keep the economy moving forward.

IMMIGRATION BILL RECEIVES ENDORSEMENT

A bill introduced by Reps. Sam Johnson (R-Texas), Kevin Brady (R-Texas) and Paul Ryan (R-Wisconsin) that would create a new, mandatory employer verification system for all future employees received the endorsement of NAHB this week. H.R. 5515, the New Employee Verification Act (NEVA), would require all U.S. employers to verify the work authorization of their future employees through a system operated by the Social Security Administration (SSA) via either an online program or telephone access to the verification system. Under the bill, employers could not be prosecuted without the federal government proving that they "knew" that an employee was illegal. Additionally, the legislation contains language long-supported by NAHB that clarifies the relationship between an employer and the employee of its subcontractors. An employer cannot be held accountable for the work status of a subcontractor's employees unless the employer "knew" that the subcontractor was using illegal labor.