



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, MARCH 8

Happy (hopefully) Sine Die Friday and welcome to week nine of the 2024 legislative session.

In a display of how much legislative leaders want to end the legislative session a week early, the session is taking place today on a Friday. Speaker Huston has made it clear that he wants today to be the last day of session – Sine Die.

The last week of session so far has some highs and lows. First the bad news. There are efforts to restore a controversial anti-collective bargaining provision on the last day of session in a conference committee report. Supporters of language to establish a proposed mastery-based education program where schools would be permitted to

opt-out of collective bargaining rights for teachers in the program is looking for a home in the final hours. Currently, it is in a draft conference committee report for HB 1243. **We are urging everyone to call their senator (800-382-9467) and representative (800-382-9842) before Friday afternoon and urge them to oppose any language that restricts collective bargaining rights in any legislation.**

Now some good news, a conference committee report for HB 1004 would enable INPRS to address long-term solutions for cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) and provide retired educators with a 13th check this year. This has been a major priority for ISTA this session. As of the writing of this update, it appears this conference committee report is headed for passage.

A section of a bill that would have allowed principals or superintendents to hire chaplains to provide secular support to students and staff as a solution to the state's counselor shortage is dead for the session. The language was stripped from HB 1137 in conference committee. The conference committee report has already passed in the House 69 – 25.

There is a lot of time left today for things to change. ISTA will provide a complete summary of what legislation passed this session at the weekly update next Friday, as well as the final [virtual legislative update](#) on Monday, March 11. In the meantime, follow [ISTA on X](#) for timely updates on developments from the Statehouse.



Read the ISTA [blog](#) and follow us on social media for more legislative updates and ways you can take action.

