

LEGISLATIVE HALFTIME BRIEFING

January 29, 2026



Citizens Action Coalition (CAC)

- CAC is a nonprofit **consumer** and **environmental** advocacy organization.
- Since our inception in 1974, we've helped to save Hoosiers billions in excess utility charges.
- We advocate for **affordable utility bills**, a **cleaner environment**, and a **stronger democracy** in Indiana.

*Research, public
education, & organizing*



Legislative advocacy



*Regulatory advocacy
& litigation*



Introductions

Kelly Hamman

Director of Development

Kerwin Olson

Executive Director

Ben Inskeep

Program Director

Lindsay Haake

Program Organizer

Legislative Overview in Indiana

■ Process

- Session usually starts in early January and goes until:
 - mid-March (short session in even-numbered years)
 - late April (long session in odd-numbered years)
- **Senate Bills that did not pass out of the Senate by today are dead will not be considered for the rest of Session. House Bills have until Monday to pass out of the House, but if they've not had a committee hearing by now during the first half, bills are considered dead.**

■ Terminology

- **General Assembly** = state representatives & senators
- **Bill** = legislation = a proposed law
- **Session** = the time during a year when the General Assembly convenes to consider bills
- **Committee** = a small group of lawmakers chosen to focus on a specific topic (e.g., Senate Utilities Committee)
- **HB** = House Bill
- **SB** = Senate Bill



Photo: Indiana Statehouse **Credit:** Daniel Schwen / Massimo Catarinella



Photo: House of Representatives Chamber **Credit:** susi.bsu

Key Legislation in 2026

Support

- **HB 1002:** Electric utility affordability
- **SB 6:** Extension of water services
- **SB 7:** Carbon sequestration
- **SB 240:** Surplus interconnection service
- **SB 241:** Utility service enhancement improvement costs

Oppose

- **SB 258:** Nuclear facility permits
- **SB 277:** Indiana department of environmental management
- **HB 1368:** Carbon
- **HB 1333:** Land use and development

Good Bills that Did Not Get Heard

■ Community Solar

- **SB 196:** Community Energy Facilities (G. Walker, R)

■ Plug-in Solar

- **HB 1084:** Plug-in Solar Power Systems (Hamilton, D)
- **SB 74:** Plug-in Home Solar Units (J. Ford, D)

■ Carbon Capture & Storage

- **HB 1341:** Eminent Domain (Yocum, R)
- **SB 260:** Carbon Dioxide (Deery, R)

■ Data Centers

- **SB 234:** Energy Utility Matters (Becker, R)
- **SB 257:** Electricity Rate Increases Due to Data Centers (Garten, R)
- **HB 1245:** IURC Study of Data Centers (Shackleford, D)
- **SB 79:** Data Center Development (J. Ford, D)
- **HB 1043:** Data Center Water Regulation (Burton, D)

■ *Many other bills on consumer protections, affordability, utility accountability, and the IURC*

Good Energy and Utility Legislation

■ **SB 240, Surplus interconnection service**

- Authored by Sen. Eric Koch (R, Bedford), House Sponsor Rep. Ed Soliday (R, Valparaiso)
- Passed Senate committee unanimously and full Senate 44-1

■ **SB 241, Utility service enhancement improvement costs**

- Authored by Sen. Eric Koch (R, Bedford), House Sponsor Rep. Ed Soliday (R, Valparaiso)
- Passed Senate committee unanimously and full Senate 42-2

■ **SB 7, Carbon sequestration**

- Authored by Sen. Rick Niemeyer (R, Lowell), House Sponsor Rep. Matt Commons (R, Williamsport)
- Passed Senate Committee 7-3 and full Senate 36-12

■ **SB 6, Extension of water service**

- Authored by Sen. Rick Niemeyer (R, Lowell), three House sponsors
- Passed Senate committee unanimously and full Senate unanimously

HB 1002 (2026)

■ Author, Rep. Elaina Shonkwiler (R, Noblesville)

- Co-Authors, Rep. Ed Soliday (R, Valparaiso), Rep. Jim Pressel (R, Rolling Prairie), Rep. Alex Burton (D, Evansville)

■ December 4, 2025

- Informational hearing in House Committee on Energy, Utilities & Telecom

■ January 13, 2026

- Introduced version heard in House Committee, no vote taken, testimony only
- CAC opposed

■ January 20, 2026

- Heard again in Committee, 4 amendments adopted
- Passed on a bi-partisan and unanimous 13-0 vote

■ January 28, 2026

- Passed full House on 3rd Reading by a vote of 89-4
- Senate Sponsor Rep. Eric Koch (R, Bedford)

HB 1002: Consumer & Low-Income Provisions

- **Electric utilities mandated to provide Low-Income Assistance Programs**
 - Funded with 0.2% of residential revenues
 - LIHEAP eligible households
 - Programs not defined in the bill
- **Summer disconnection moratorium for LIHEAP**
 - LIHEAP eligible households, notice of disconnection
 - 48 hours in advance of heat-index of at least 95 degrees Fahrenheit
 - 14-day period from time of notice of disconnection
- **Quarterly utility reporting of disconnection, arrearage data**
- **Levelized billing with opt-out**

HB 1002: Performance Based Ratemaking

■ Multi-Year Rate Plans

- 3-year rate plans on mandatory schedule to replace 2-year forward-looking test year and discretionary rate cases

■ Performance Incentive Mechanisms

- Does not fundamentally change status quo cost-of-service model

■ Trackers (bill surcharges)

- Lingering concerns
- Trackers no longer needed

■ Other issues

- IURC may recommend governor declare a disaster emergency or state of energy emergency under specific conditions

Bad Energy and Utility Legislation

■ **SB 277, Indiana department of environmental management.**

- Authored by Sen. Rick Niemeyer (R, Lowell)
- “Red Tape Reduction Act”
- Passed Senate Environmental Affairs 5-3
- Passed Senate Appropriations 9-4
- Passed Senate 29-19

■ **SB 258, Nuclear facility permits.**

- Authored by Sen. Eric Koch (R, Bedford), House Sponsor Rep. Ed Soliday (R, Valparaiso)
- Passed Senate committee 7-3 and full Senate 36-9

■ **HB 1368, Carbon.**

- Authored by Rep. Ed Soliday (R, Valparaiso), Senate Sponsor Sen. Eric Koch (R, Bedford)
- Passed House committee 10-2 and full House 58-36

Bad Energy and Utility Legislation

■ **HB 1333, Land use and development.**

- Authored by Rep. Kendell Culp (R, Rensselaer)
- Passed by Committees
 - Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications, 8-4
 - Ways and Means, 14-6
- Was not amended, faces vote as early as Monday. If bill does not receive a vote on Monday, the bill will die.
- Key provisions
 - Any development sited on agricultural land Class IV through VIII is a permitted use
 - Data centers approved after July 1, 2026 will provide 1% of sales tax exemption benefit to local unit of government

Take Action

Urge legislators to support
& strengthen HB 1002!



Scan to visit
[**citact.org/act.26iga.hb1002**](https://citact.org/act.26iga.hb1002)
to email your legislators

Urge legislators to reject
Senate Bills 258 & 277!



Scan to visit
[**citact.org/act.26iga.nuclear**](https://citact.org/act.26iga.nuclear)
to email your legislators

Q & A and Contact Information

■ Please enter your question into the Q&A

CAC's Website & Resources

Visit CAC's website www.citact.org to learn more and stay connected

- **Access resources** on important legislation being considered and **contact your lawmakers**
- **Sign up** to receive email and texts updates
- **Give a contribution** to support our work

Contact Tonight's Speakers

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