

Legislative Study Committees Impact Consulting Engineering Firms

As a result of the 2011 Indiana legislative session, four summer study committees will convene that are of interest to professional consulting engineering firms. ACEC Indiana will monitor and report on their activity.

Local Price Preference: As part of a larger bill on state tax and fiscal policy (House Enrolled Act 1004), a small provision was inserted in the conference committee that established a bid preference for a local company, and goes into effect July 1, 2011. It changes state law from a standard of "lowest responsive, responsible" to something less certain. Programs that rely on federal funding, such as the state revolving fund and USDA/Rural Development, are grappling with its

impact since federal law does not allow a local price preference. For engineers, preparation of the bid documents to comply with both federal and state laws will be a challenge. Due to these unintended consequences, the interim study committee on Economic Development will examine this issue.

Transportation Infrastructure: Representative Ed Soliday (R-Valparaiso) spearheaded legislation (HEA 1371) to expand this study committee which had been focused on just transit for the last few years to all forms of transportation infrastructure, including highways and roads, ports and aviation. It will examine the condition of Indiana's existing infrastructure, the demands of it through the

year 2035, and sources to fund it. The Build Indiana Council, of which ACEC is an active member, will be closely involved.

Transit Funding: The State Tax and Financing Policy study committee will examine whether and to what extent transit funding should be a state or local responsibility. It stemmed from the new 2-year budget passed in HEA 1001.

Veterans Procurement Preferences: The Commission on Military and Veterans Affairs will examine this issue, as a result of HEA 1183.

If you want more information, go to the [Indiana General Assembly](#) home page and click on Interim Study Committees.

ACEC INDIANA ENVIRONMENTAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE



WED., OCT. 12

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS:
BRUNO PIGOTT; BILL HARKINS,
IN FINANCE AUTHORITY,
REP. DAVE WOLKINS AND
INVITED DIANE SHEA, ACEC
DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL
AND ENERGY PROGRAMS

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