



SENATOR JEAN BREAUX

116TH INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ★ SENATE DISTRICT 34

NEWS RELEASE

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Media Contact:
Peg McLeish, 317-232-9507
Elise Shrock, 317-232-9496

General Assembly approves Breaux legislation

INDIANAPOLIS – The 2010 session of the 116th General Assembly ended March 13, with 115 bills sent to the Governor's desk. State Senator Jean Breaux (D-Indianapolis) sponsored or authored a number of bills that found approval by the legislature and are awaiting action by the governor or set to become law. They include:

Health & Education

Breaux authored **Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 387**, which establishes the Office of Minority Health in state statute, and within the Indiana Department of Health. The Office of Minority Health focuses on improving the health of Indiana's minority communities through increased awareness, partnerships and the development and promotion of effective health policies and programs that serve to reduce minority health disparities. The bill was approved by a vote of 48 to 2 in the Senate, passed unanimously out of the House of Representatives and was signed by the governor March 12. The legislation will become effective July 1.

SEA 389 requires the caseworker of a foster child to provide information concerning individual development accounts to children in foster care and their foster parents. An individual development account is a savings program in which the State of Indiana matches the funds deposited by a participant up to a limited amount. Savings from individual development accounts can be used for post secondary education or job training, to start or expand small businesses, or for the purchase of a home. The bill was authored by Breaux and was approved by unanimous votes in the Senate and House of Representatives. SEA 389 was signed by the governor March 12 and will become effective July 1

House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1193, co-sponsored by Breaux creates the Indiana Law Enforcement, School Policing Youth Work Group, to be staffed and administered by the Criminal Justice Institute. It requires the Work Group to study and make specific recommendations concerning law enforcement, school policing and youth. HEA 1193 requires school corporations to submit an annual report concerning student arrests and the use of school corporation police departments. The bill was approved by a final vote of 45 to 3 in the Senate, 91 to 1 in the House of Representatives and has been sent to the governor for possible enactment. If signed, the law will go into effect July 1.

Unclaimed Property

HEA 1083, sponsored by Breaux, reduces the period after which unclaimed property is considered abandoned from five to three years. Examples of unclaimed property specified in the bill include money, such as cash, a check, a deposit and interest. The bill passed unanimously in the Senate and House of Representatives, and has been sent to the governor for possible enactment. If passed, the law will become effective July 1.

Indiana residents can find unclaimed property through the Indiana's Attorney General's office at www.indianaunclaimed.com.

Marion County Courts

HEA 1154, sponsored by Breaux, provides commissioners in Marion County with all the powers and duties prescribed for a magistrate. The wages for non-elected magistrates are paid by the state. The bill was approved unanimously in the Senate and House of Representatives and has been sent to the governor for possible enactment. If signed, the bill will go into effect July 1, 2011.

Bankruptcy Exemptions

HEA 1021 provides that a debtor's Indiana earned income tax credit is property that is exempt under the bankruptcy property exemption statute. The bill was co-sponsored by Breaux and approved by a vote of 44 to 6 in the Senate and unanimously in the House of Representatives. The governor signed the bill into law March 12 and it becomes effective July 1.

For more information on Senator Breaux, her legislative agenda or other State Senate business call 1-800-382-9467 or visit www.senatedemocrats.in.gov.

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