



SENATOR
SUE ERRINGTON
116TH INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ★ SENATE DISTRICT 26

NEWS RELEASE

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General Assembly approves Errington legislation

INDIANAPOLIS – The 2010 legislative session of the 116th General Assembly ended March 13, with 115 enrolled acts sent to the governor's desk for final action. State Sen. Sue Errington (D-Muncie) sponsored and co-authored a number of bills that found approval by the legislature this year. They include:

Economic Development

Errington successfully ushered her proposal to authorize a third area in Delaware County for designation as a community revitalization district (CRED) with the passage of **HEA 1086**. The measure will help attract redevelopment investment to the former BorgWarner plant in Muncie, and bring jobs to East Central Indiana. HEA 1086 was approved unanimously in the Senate, passed by a vote of 89 to 7 in the House of Representatives, and will be sent to the governor for possible enactment.

CRED designations encourage redevelopment efforts for facilities like BorgWarner by allowing participating businesses to qualify for a tax credit up to 25 percent of their investment.

Health, Education & Public Safety

Under **Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 148**, co-authored by Errington, the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS) must ensure by July 1, 2011, that an entity approved to provide adult day services, day habilitation or vocational services is accredited by a national accreditation organization approved by the state's Family and Social Services Administration. SEA 148 was approved unanimously in the Senate and House of Representatives and was signed by the governor March 12.

SEA 226, also co-authored by Errington, assigns the topic of teen suicide prevention to the Health Finance Commission for study during the 2010 legislative interim. The Health Finance Commission will specifically look at the root causes of teen suicide, as well as prevention mechanisms. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is the third leading cause of death for youth between the ages of 10 and 24. The bill was approved by unanimous votes in the Senate and House of Representatives and was signed by the governor March 12. The bill will become effective July 1, 2011.

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 co-authored by Errington 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.

SEA 163, co-authored by Errington, increases the state's ability to collect child support due to families by requiring Indiana casinos to withhold the cash winnings of those delinquent in child support. SEA 163 was approved unanimously by the Senate and the House of Representatives and has been sent to the governor for enactment. If signed, the law will become effective July 1.

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HEA 1099, co-sponsored by Errington, allows the Indiana Board of Animal Health (BOAH) to assist organizations that represent poultry producers with health and safety issues related to poultry. The bill also allows the BOAH to establish standards governing the care of livestock and poultry. The bill was approved unanimously by the Senate and House of Representatives and signed by the governor March 12. The provision will become effective July 1, 2011.

HEA 1194 extends the reinstatement rights of laid off police officers and firefighters from three to five years. Individuals with reinstatement rights can be noncompetitively placed in positions at grades equal to or lower than the grade they previously held. The bill will allow more laid off public safety officials to be rehired in the future, which will reduce expenses for local governments by avoiding costs associated with training and certification. The bill was approved by unanimous votes in the Senate and House of Representatives and signed by the governor March 12. It will become effective July 1.

HEA 1116 provides that an employer may not delay the provision of emergency medical care for worker's compensation injuries or occupational disease or disablements whenever emergency medical care is considered necessary by the attending physician. The bill, co-sponsored by Errington, passed unanimously out of the Senate and by a vote of 87 to 3 in the House of Representatives. HEA 1116 has been sent to the governor for his signature or veto. If signed into law, the act will become effective July 1.

Tax & Election Matters

HEA 1109, co-sponsored by Errington, requires that all locations where a voter is entitled to cast an absentee ballot in person before Election Day must meet the same accessibility requirements that apply to a polling place for a precinct. The bill also provides that voters casting absentee ballots in the office of the circuit court clerk, or a satellite office, are entitled to assistance if they are disabled or unable to read or write English. The bill was approved unanimously by the Senate and House of Representatives, and has been sent to the governor. If signed into law, the bill will become effective July 1.

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 Errington 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 Errington, her legislative agenda or other State Senate business call 1-800-382-9467 or visit www.senatedemocrats.in.gov.

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