



SENATOR
EARLINE S. ROGERS
116TH INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ★ SENATE DISTRICT 3

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
March 18, 2010

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General Assembly approves Rogers legislation

INDIANAPOLIS – The 2010 session of the 116th General Assembly ended March 13, with 115 enacted bills sent to the governor's desk. State Sen. Earline Rogers (D-Gary), authored and sponsored a number of bills that were approved by the legislature. They include:

Flexibility in School Funding

Rogers sponsored **House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1367**, which allows a school district to transfer up to 5 percent of the capital projects fund levy to its general fund. HEA 1367 authorizes school districts to transfer up to 10 percent of the capital projects fund levy to its general fund with certain stipulations. The legislation is a result of action taken by the governor in early January when he imposed funding cuts of \$300 million on K-12 education as state tax collections continue to fall below expectations. The bill was approved unanimously in the Senate and House of Representatives and will be sent to the governor for possible enactment. If signed, these provisions of the bill will become effective July 1.

Dating Violence Education

Rogers authored **Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 316**, which requires the Indiana Department of Education (DOE) to develop or identify model dating violence educational materials and a model for dating violence response policies in Indiana schools. The bill was approved by a final vote of 45 to 5 in the Senate, and a vote of 82 to 14 in the House. The dating violence education applies only for grades 6 through 12, and the bill requires schools to have policies in place by July 1, 2011. Sen. Rogers refers to the bill as "Heather's Law," named after a young woman from Gary who was physically abused and ultimately murdered by her estranged boyfriend. SEA 316 was signed into law by the governor on March 18.

Advanced Placement Exams

HEA 1135, sponsored by Rogers, requires state colleges and universities in Indiana to give credit toward degree requirements for students who receive a score of three, four or five on an advanced placement (AP) examination. The bill was approved by a final vote of 47 to 3 in the Indiana Senate and approved unanimously in the House of Representatives. This legislation benefits students, parents, teachers and taxpayers by addressing college costs and rewarding academic success. It provides a tangible benefit for students taking AP exams and gives taxpayers a return on their investment, since most math and science tests are federally funded. The bill also provides an incentive for students to remain in the state after high school graduation. HEA 1135 was signed by the governor on March 18 and takes effect July 1.

Illiana Expressway

Rogers authored **SEA 382**, which authorizes a public-private partnership to build the Illiana Expressway. The bill was approved by a final vote of 42 to 0 in the Senate and 89 to 6 in the House. The new interstate would link Interstate 65 in Lake County with either I-57 or I-55. Construction is tentatively set for 2017, before which an economic impact study must be conducted, as well as a public hearing concerning the study on the proposed project. SEA 382 was signed into law by the governor on March 18 and takes effect immediately.

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Research & Development Plates

Rogers co-sponsored **HEA 1188**, which establishes research and development license plates for use by manufactures of vehicle subcomponent systems. The special automobile license plates will make it easier for hybrid vehicle companies to legally test drive their manufactured vehicles on Indiana roads and highways. The Secretary of State is charged with adopting rules to establish and classify research and development license plates, and the bill sets a \$20 fee for each plate. The bill was approved 49 to 1 in the Senate and 96 to 0 in the House. HEA 1188 was signed into law by the governor on March 18 and takes effect July 1.

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

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