

LEGISLATIVE ACTION NETWORK WEEK #1
JANUARY 4-7, 2012
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The second session of the 116th Indiana General Assembly was gaveled to order in the Senate on Wednesday, January 4th. The House has yet to gavel itself to order as the Democrats remain in caucus preventing a quorum. There is some question as to whether the House actions of introducing bills, assigning bills to committee, and holding committee hearings is permissible under the Rules.

Almost as quickly as it was announced, the daily quota of 3,000 people in the State House, it was overturned by the Governor. After receiving many complaints from Hoosiers, the State House is now open for all. Today as I entered the State House one hour early for a committee hearing, I had no difficulty entering. There are State Police at every entrance and on all floors. They also stand guard at the doors of all elected officials in the State House.

Today I testified in support of HB1005, Conflict of Interest and Nepotism. These issues were first introduced in the "omnibus" local government reform bill that appeared as the result of the Kernan-Shepherd Report. After 4 sessions, this bill, although not perfect, is a good compromise. If the bill stands as introduced it will be a big step towards transparent, open, accountable government. If you are having Third House or Cracker Barrel meetings this weekend, please let your representative know you support HB1005. No amendments.

Tomorrow a hearing is scheduled in the House Chamber on the so called Right to Work Bill. Today as I left the State House there were busses lined up bringing in people to fill the State House tomorrow.

Next week action testimony on SB0170, Nepotism & Conflict of Interest; SB0092, Public Access; and possibly SB0175, Absentee Ballots.