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LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION



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Dennis K. Kruse

Indiana Senator, SD-014 (R)

freedomindex.us/4867/



2021-2022 IN Legislative Scorecard: 67%

✓ Constitutional ✗ Unconstitutional — Did not Vote **Vote**

1. Oversight of Local Emergency Powers: Provides that a local order may not be more stringent or broader in aspect than an executive order issued by the state during a declared emergency without the approval of the local legislative body.



Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes** · SB0005 · Passed 40–8 · 02/08/2021

2. Justice Reinvestment Advisory Councils: Establishes a Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council (JRAC) for each county in Indiana, consisting of leadership within the respective executive and judicial branches of government, whose purpose is to review local or regional criminal justice systems, policies, and procedures.



Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · HB1068 · Passed 49–0 · 03/16/2021

3. Restrictions on Abortion-Inducing Drugs: Prevents an abortion-inducing drug from being given to a pregnant woman after eight weeks of post-fertilization age.



Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes** · HB1577 · Passed 36–14 · 04/06/2021

4. Budget: Provides the biennial budget for the State of Indiana, as passed by the General Assembly, which appropriates approximately \$92.2 billion for FY 22-23.



Estimated Cost per household: **-\$35,405.00/year.**

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · HB1001 · Passed 46–3 · 04/22/2021

5. Protecting Minors Against Harmful Material: Would remove the exemption for K-12 schools and certain public libraries under current law that prohibits the distribution of material or a performance harmful to minors.



Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes** · SB0017 · Passed 34–15 · 02/01/2022

6. Permitless Firearm Carry: Allows permitless carry of a handgun for certain persons who are not otherwise prohibited from carrying or possessing a handgun in Indiana. 

Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes** · HB1296 · Passed 30–20 · 03/08/2022

Why do these votes matter?

1. Oversight of Local Emergency Powers

SB0005 provides that a local order may not be more stringent or broader in aspect than an executive order issued by the state during a declared emergency without the approval of the local legislative body. It also allows a local order to be less stringent than an executive order issued by the state to the extent permitted by the executive order.

Oversight of state and local emergency powers is a proper function of the respective legislative bodies of government within a system of checks and balances. Each state, under Article IV, Section 4, of the U.S. Constitution, is guaranteed a republican form of government, which requires a limitation and separation of powers.

2. Justice Reinvestment Advisory Councils

HB1068 establishes a local or regional Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council (JRAC) for each county in Indiana, consisting of leadership within the respective executive and judicial branches of government, whose purpose is to review local or regional criminal justice systems, policies, and procedures.

Justice reinvestment is a nationwide 'civil justice corps' initiative that involves the reallocation of federal, state, and local funds from the criminal justice system to community-based social services programs (e.g., housing, healthcare, jobs, etc.). It entails the creation of 'advisory councils,' which like 'civilian review boards,' seek to redefine public safety in America by exerting control over the policymaking process apart from the constitutionally-authorized legislative bodies of government.

3. Restrictions on Abortion-Inducing Drugs

HB1577 prevents an abortion-inducing drug from being given to a pregnant woman after eight weeks of post-fertilization age. It also requires abortion clinics to provide a pregnant woman with an ultrasound of the fetus, as well as information about treatment that could stop a drug-induced abortion. Further, it specifies that parental consent forms by minors seeking abortions must be notarized.

States should act to ban abortion and secure the right to life for all persons. The right to life is the most fundamental God-given and unalienable right asserted in the Declaration of Independence, and is guaranteed by the 5th and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

4. Budget

HB1001 (2021) is the biennial budget for the State of Indiana, as passed by the General Assembly. It appropriates approximately \$92.2 billion for FY 22-23.

This spending plan passed by the General Assembly includes \$42.1 billion of mostly unconstitutional federal funds, representing 45.7% of the state's entire budget. It not only increases funding for Medicaid, but also appropriates over \$3.1 billion from the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. States should oppose the use of federal taxpayer money for purposes not authorized under Article 1, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution.

5. Protecting Minors Against Harmful Material

SB0017 would remove the exemption for K-12 schools and certain public libraries under current law that prohibits the distribution of material or a performance harmful to minors. Parents have a right--and the government has a duty--to protect young children from obscene, indecent, or profane activity. Parental rights, as with all other fundamental rights to life, liberty, and property, are guaranteed by the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

6. Permitless Firearm Carry

HB1296 allows permitless carry of a handgun for certain persons who are not otherwise prohibited from carrying or possessing a handgun in Indiana.

The fundamental right of the American people to keep and bear arms should not be infringed, as guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.