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LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

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Eddie Melton

Indiana Senator, SD-003 (D)

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2024 IN Legislative Scorecard: %

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

1. Green Energy Loans: Repeals obsolete energy programs and funds managed by the Indiana Office of Energy Development and replaces them with a low-interest loan program for energy efficiency and recycling projects.

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Constitutional: **No** · Cast: None · HB1278 · 02/29/2024

2. Election Integrity: Prohibits political subdivisions from joining or participating in programs offered by those who have directly financed certain election activities (e.g., Zuckerbucks), and strengthens requirement ensuring that only legal voters can cast ballots.

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Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: None · HB1264 · 02/29/2024

3. Medicaid and Birth Control: Mandates that hospitals with maternity units offer Medicaid-eligible women the option to receive a long-acting reversible contraceptive implant after childbirth.

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Constitutional: **No** · Cast: None · HB1426 · 03/05/2024

4. 2nd Amendment Protection: Restricts the use of a "firearms code" in payment transactions, preventing financial services from declining transactions based on it.

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Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: None · HB1084 · 03/07/2024

5. Innkeeper's tax: Allows certain counties to increase their innkeeper's tax rate, attacking short-term rental owners.

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Constitutional: **No** · Cast: None · SB238 · 03/08/2024

6. Community Health Grants: Creates the Community Cares Initiative Grant Pilot Program to fund mobile health care and crisis teams in Indiana.

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Constitutional: **No** · Cast: None · HB1385 · 03/08/2024

Why do these votes matter?

1. Green Energy Loans

HB1278 repeals obsolete energy programs and funds managed by the Indiana Office of Energy Development and replaces them with a low-interest loan program for energy efficiency and recycling projects.

The Indiana State Senate passed HB1278 on February 29, 2024 by a vote of 40 to 6. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill takes a step toward implementing the United Nations' Agenda 2030. HB1278 subtly advances a globalist environmental agenda under the pretext of combating climate change, which erodes property rights and local control. States should not buy into the climate-change agenda.

2. Election Integrity

HB1264 prohibits political subdivisions from joining or participating in programs offered by those who have directly financed certain election activities (e.g., Zuckerbucks), and strengthens requirement ensuring that only legal voters can cast ballots.

The Indiana State Senate passed HB1264 on February 29, 2024 by a vote of 34 to 13. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because states should exercise their authority under Article I, Section 4, of the U.S. Constitution to ensure free, fair, and secure elections, thereby guaranteeing equal protection of the voting rights of U.S. citizens. Additionally, Article IV, Section 2, of the U.S. Constitution stipulates that U.S. citizens are entitled to all privileges and immunities, including the right to vote as established by the 26th Amendment.

3. Medicaid and Birth Control

HB1426 mandates that hospitals with maternity units offer Medicaid-eligible women the option to receive a long-acting reversible contraceptive implant after childbirth.

The Indiana State Senate passed HB1426 on March 5, 2024 by a vote of 30 to 18. We assigned pluses to the nays because taxpayers shouldn't fund long-term contraceptives, and mandating this service for a specific group is government overreach. Medicaid unfairly burdens taxpayers and isn't authorized by the Constitution. Indiana should reject expanding this unsustainable program.

4. 2nd Amendment Protection

HB1084 allows certain state officials to carry handguns in the state Capitol. Additionally, it bans government entities and individuals from keeping records of privately owned firearms or their owners in Indiana. The bill also restricts the use of a "firearms code" in payment transactions, preventing financial services from declining transactions based on it. It limits the disclosure of financial records related to firearm purchases and assigns regulatory enforcement to financial regulators and the attorney general.

The Indiana State Senate passed HB1084 on March 7, 2024 by a vote of 39 to 9. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because the workaround by credit card companies to track ammunition and firearm purchases violates several constitutionally protected rights, including the First, Second, and Fourth Amendments. This is a large invasion of privacy, opens the door for illegal searches, and potentially deters people from making firearm purchases.

5. Innkeeper's tax

SB238 allows certain counties to increase their innkeeper's tax rates substantially. The innkeeper's tax applies to accommodations rented for less than 30 days, also known as short-term rentals.

The Indiana State Senate passed SB238 on March 8, 2024 by a vote of 41 to 7. We have assigned pluses to the nays because expanding government authority through increased taxation grows the size of government. Additionally, the bill violates the Constitution, particularly the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments' protection against arbitrary government interference with property rights.

6. Community Health Grants

HB1385 creates the Community Cares Initiative Grant Pilot Program to fund mobile health care and crisis teams in Indiana.

The Indiana State Senate passed HB1385 on March 8, 2024 by a vote of 45 to 2. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation expands government control over healthcare, which is unconstitutional. By imposing rate caps on what nonparticipating ambulance providers can charge, the bill interferes with the free market, undermining competition and restricting providers' ability to set prices based on cost and demand. Additionally, government-issued grants give the government the authority to choose winners and losers.