

Introduction

- **Presenters:** Dr. Terry Tippin (Executive Director of STAI) and Mike Larocco (Director, Office of School Transportation, Indiana Department of Education).
- **Purpose:** Mike provides a legislative update on bills affecting school transportation during the January 2026 session.

Proposed Bills

- **House Bill 1059 (Commercial Advertising on School Buses):**
 - Would permit school corporations to display **commercial advertising** on school buses if the governing body adopts a compliant policy.
 - Ads limited to **rear quarter panels**, maximum two per bus, with size limits of **36 inches height** and **90 inches length**.
 - School corporation policies must define acceptable content; law includes some restrictions but is not highly prescriptive.
 - Assigned to the **Committee on Education**; currently in committee with no hearings yet.

Senate Bill 62 (Firearm Possession by a Child)

- Renames the offense to **unlawful possession of a firearm by a child**.
- Applies an **enhanced penalty (level 5 felony)** if the offense occurs on school property, within **500 feet of school property**, or **on a school bus**.
- Addresses incidents where a child brings or leaves a firearm on a bus; assigned to the **Committee on Corrections and Criminal Law** and currently in committee.

Senate Bill 86 (Local Transportation Boards & Charter Schools)

- Modifies the composition of **local transportation boards** created for shared transportation between public, non-public, and charter schools; requires a **minimum odd number** of members (five minimum).
- Changes various provisions of **IC 20-27** (primary Indiana school transportation statute), clarifying which parts apply to charter schools.
- Would include charter schools in certain mandated transportation regulations when students live within district boundaries, though it may not require the district to provide transportation directly.
- Assigned to the **Committee on Education and Career Development**; currently in committee.

Legislative Process & Timeline

- All three bills are in early stages and are **sitting in committee** awaiting hearings and votes.
- Typical process: committee hearings → committee vote → floor consideration in each house → possible amendments or failure.
- Session expected to be **short (target end by end of February)**; final outcomes unknown.