

Two School Merger Bills Pass Senate

One Measure Calls For Consolidation Under Trustees

Two plans for consolidating schools within a county or in adjoining counties were given final passage last night by the Indiana Senate.

The House had earlier approved the measures, but since the Senate amended the two bills slightly the changes must be adopted by the lower assembly.

Both bills were sponsored by the Indiana State Teachers Association and the Indiana School Study Commission.

One calls for consolidation under a board composed of township trustees. The other would provide for a county board of education composed of five members elected on a non-partisan basis from districts.

Several Forms

The two plans provide several forms of consolidation. Under the five-member board any two or more school units in a county or all units could consolidate.

The system under the direction of trustees would call for a complete county organization with means by which town and city units might consolidate with the county school corporation.

Under the trustee organization, the trustees not later than May 1 of each year are mandated to consider the plan for consolidation if the schools are not consolidated.

If they desire to consolidate they may do so by resolution. If they pass the consolidation resolution persons objecting to consolidation will have 60 days in which to file a protest.

Vote in Protest

If the protest is filed by 5 per cent of the voters then the question of consolidation it put before the people at a special election. If a protest is not filed the consolidation is accomplished within 60 days after expiration of the protest period.

Under the five-member plan any two trustees or school boards in a county may agree to consolidate by a resolution.

Persons objecting have 30 days in which to file protests with the county clerk. Protests must be signed by 5 per cent of the voters in the school unit who cast for secretary of state at the last general election.

In case a protest is filed the county election board must hold a special election within 30 days or the vote may be taken at the next primary or general election.

Assembly Passes Reassessment Bill

The Indiana real estate reassessment bill last night was approved by the General Assembly. It now goes to the Governor for signature.

Thus ended weeks of battling over provisions of the measure which calls for a complete new assessment of property under a standardized procedure set forth in the bill.

At its various stages of passage the measure brought forth some of the most heated debate of the 86th session. Late yesterday afternoon the House gave final approval to amendments added to the bill in the Senate.

Set 35% Limit

Under provisions of the bill, property will be assessed at a figure no higher than one-third its 1948 base value or construction.

The State Tax Board will provide forms, standard rules and regulations for the reassessment. The bill gives power to standardize assessments on a county basis and the State Tax Board is given standardization powers over the counties.

Each township assessor must complete his reassessment by April 1, 1950 on property held Mar. 1, 1950.

Greencastle Guide

The Chamber of Commerce of Greencastle has just issued a complete directory of trading facilities in the area. The brochure also lists civic assets, top among which is DePauw University.

Legislative Calendar

March 8

BILLS PASSED

HB 199 (Stonel-Kendall) — Highways: Allows state highway commission to award a contract for the construction, repair or improvement of highways. (14 ayes, 0 nays.)

HB 210 (Conrad-Brock) — Cities: Puts City of Delphi in its fifth class thereby enabling it to reorganize its city boards.

HB 228 (Ames-O'Grady) — Real Estate: Provides for a state tax on property by the state in connection with the binding of a pond or lake or private lands. (10 ayes, 0 nays.)

Senate

HB 19 (Brennan-McNamee) — State Aid to School: Provides formula for state aid to school.

HB 220 (Littlejohn-Latham) — Court Clerks: Increases salary of chief clerks of circuit and criminal courts of Marion County. (13 ayes, 0 nays.)

HB 241 (Brennan-Anderson) — Negligent Infants: Provides for action which parents born out of wedlock may bring action to establish legitimacy. (38 ayes, 0 nays.)

HB 260 (Conrad) — Industrial Accident: Provides for a state commission to furnish copies of medical examination report in 10 days prior to hearing in workers' compensation cases.

HB 281 (Conrad) — Medical Exam: Requires employers to furnish workers with medical examination report 10 days prior to hearing. (38 ayes, 0 nays.)

HB 291 (Barick-Dunn) — Aid to Blind: Provides for monthly aid to blind persons engaged in vocational training. (38 ayes, 0 nays.)

HB 301 (Brennan-McNamee) — Works and

Frates: Authorizes department of financial institutions to set service charges to be paid by persons holding certificates of investment. (34 ayes, 0 nays.)

HB 441 (Davis-McNamee) — Dependent Children: Provides for support for dependent children in divorce cases where jurisdiction of the court. (38 ayes, 2 nays.)

HB 445 (Bostic-Latham) — Indianapolis parking commission for Indianapolis. (38 ayes, 0 nays.)

Pays in Tears for Law's Delays



For Patty there is no lobby.

Two Years Patty Has Awaited Day When State Would Keep Its Promise

By OPAL CROCKETT

On May 21, 1947, the pen in the hand of Marion County Circuit Court Judge Lloyd D. Claycombe scratched across a legal paper. The words inscribed were:

"Committed to Epileptic Village at New Castle."

Patty was just a little girl. She was only 5. But she knew she was going away some place where they would try to make her better.

May, 1947, rolled into May, 1948. Now it is nearly May, 1949. And the happiness in the heart of Patty's mother, when she learned her baby was going to be helped has turned to sorrow.

For Patty is still at home. Still in the waiting just.

PATTY has been subject to epilepsy since she was 2. The doctors say if she were sent to one of the state institutions, she could be helped, possibly she could become normal with the proper treatment.

But again the state has failed Patty. Like its predecessors, the outgoing Indiana General Assembly has appropriated no money to expand facilities for those with nervous disorders, the mentally ill, and no funds with which to treat them.

Patty has no lobby.

I WENT out to Patty's house this week.

Patty was sobbing. "Why can't I go to school, Mother?" she said as the tears coursed down her cheeks.

"Brother goes, so do the others, I want to go, too."

Her mother bites her lip as she tries not to show her tears too.

She has almost given up hope that Patty ever will be taken to the Village for the treatment so necessary.

APPROXIMATELY 600 applications are filed annually in the Marion County clerk's office, for admissions to Newcastle Epileptic Village, Muscatatuck State School at Butlerville, Ind., Central State Hospital, Indianapolis, and Veterans Hospital, Marion.

While the sick people wait, they pass lost hours at home. If they become too ill, they're lodged temporarily in local hospitals, correctional institutions—or in Marion County Jail.

Likewise, Patty, they have no lobby.

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