



# Journal of the House

State of Indiana

122nd General Assembly

Second Regular Session

First Day

Tuesday Afternoon

November 16, 2021

The members of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Twenty-second General Assembly of the State of Indiana assembled in the House Chambers in the State House in the City of Indianapolis on Tuesday, the sixteenth day of November, 2021, A.D., at 1:30 p.m., being the day fixed by law for the convening of the second regular session of the General Assembly, viz:

“...the second regular session of each term of the general assembly shall convene on the third Tuesday after the first Monday of November of each odd-numbered year...”

The invocation was offered by Pastor Matt Barnes of the Public Servants’ Prayer.

The House was called to order by Speaker Todd M. Huston.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Representative Gutwein.

## FILLING VACANT LEGISLATIVE OFFICES

### District 73

October 27, 2021

The Honorable Holli Sullivan  
Indiana Secretary of State  
201 State House  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Secretary Sullivan,

This is to officially notify you that this office has received from the Indiana Republican State Chairman, a copy of the certification of the election of J. Michael Davisson to represent State House District 73, filing the vacancy created by the death of Steve Davisson. Representative J. Michael Davisson was duly elected on October 21, 2021, in a caucus of precinct committee persons in District 73.

Sincerely,

Todd M. Huston, Speaker  
Indiana House of Representatives  
122<sup>nd</sup> Indiana General Assembly

### CERTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT TO A VACANT STATE LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

TO THE HONORABLE TODD M. HUSTON  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

WHEREAS, A vacancy occurred in the office of Indiana State House District 73, on September 19, 2021, due to the death of Representative Steve Davisson, who was elected to office as a candidate of the Indiana Republican Party;

WHEREAS, The duly elected and acting state chairman of the Indiana Republican Party set the place, date and time of a caucus comprised of the eligible precinct committeemen from Indiana House District 73 and sent a notice by first class mail to all precinct committeemen in the caucus at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting, setting forth the purpose, place, date and time of the meeting;

WHEREAS, The state chairman or his duly appointed designee presided over the aforesaid caucus, which was conducted on October 21, 2021.

WHEREAS, The caucus, voting by secret ballot, and a majority vote of those casting a vote for the candidate, selected an individual who resides within House District 73 to fill this vacancy;

WHEREAS, The individual selected to fill the aforesaid vacancy had filed a declaration of candidacy with the chairman of the caucus, and had previously filed a statement of economic interests under Indiana Code 2-2.1-3-2 with the Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives, at least seventy-two (72) hours before the time fixed for the caucus, all as required by Indiana Code 3-13-5-3;

WHEREAS, Under Indiana Code 3-13-5-6, the state chairman is required to certify the name of the individual selected under Indiana Code 3-13-5-1 to fill this vacancy to the Speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Under Indiana Code 3-13-5-6, the Speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives is required to acknowledge receipt of this certification, submit a copy of the certificate to be included in the Journal of the Indiana House of Representatives on the day when the individual is seated, (or if this certificate is received after the adjournment *sine die* of the General Assembly, on the first day that the Indiana House of Representatives is in session following receipt of this certificate), and immediately forward the certificate to the Secretary of the State of Indiana: NOW, THEREFORE,

### AS THE DULY ELECTED AND ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE INDIANA REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE,

(1) I certify that J. Michael Davisson was selected by the aforesaid caucus to fill the vacancy existing in the Office of the Indiana House of Representatives, District 73;

(2) I request that the Speaker of the House of Representatives acknowledge receipt of this Certificate by his signature below as provided for by Indiana Code 3-13-5-6;

(3) I request that the Speaker of the House of Representatives include a copy of this Certificate in the Journal of the Indiana House of Representatives as provided in Indiana Code 1-3-5-6; and

(4) I request that this Certificate be immediately forwarded to the Secretary of State, as provided by Indiana Code 3-13-5-6.

CERTIFIED, THIS THE 21st DAY OF OCTOBER  
27, 2021:

Kyle Hupfer,  
Indiana Republican State Chairman

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT BY THE  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

I hereby acknowledge receipt of this Certificate by my signature below this twenty-seventh day of October, 2021.

Signed: Todd M. Huston  
Speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives

NOTIFICATION TO  
SECRETARY OF STATE

October 21, 2021

The Honorable Holli Sullivan  
Indiana Secretary of State  
201 State House  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Secretary Sullivan:

This is to officially notify you that this office has received from the Chair of the Indiana Republican Committee, a copy of the certification of the election of J. Michael Davisson to represent State House District 73, filling the vacancy created by the death of Steve Davisson. Representative J. Michael Davisson was duly elected on October 21, 2021, in a caucus of precinct committee persons in District 73.

Sincerely,  
Todd M. Huston  
Speaker of the House

CERTIFICATE OF SELECTION  
TO STATE LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

TO THE HONORABLE TODD M. HUSTON  
SPEAKER OF THE INDIANA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WHEREAS, A vacancy occurred in the office of Indiana State Representative, District 73, due to the death of the Honorable Steve Davisson who was elected to that office as a candidate of the Indiana Republican Party;

WHEREAS, On October 21, 2021, a caucus composed of Republican Party precinct committeemen from Indiana House District 73 selected J. Michael Davisson to fill the vacancy in Indiana House District 73;

WHEREAS, Kyle Hupfer, Chairman of the Indiana Republican Party, certified the selection of J. Michael Davisson to fill the vacancy in office of Indiana State Representative, District 73, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Speaker of the House Representatives acknowledged receipt of the certification;

WHEREAS, The Speaker of the House of Representatives forwarded the aforesaid certification to the Secretary of State, in accordance with Indiana Code 3-13-5-6; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Indiana Code 3-13-5-7, the Secretary of State is required to certify the individual selected to fill a vacant legislative office: NOW, THEREFORE,

AS THE DULY ELECTED AND ACTING INDIANA SECRETARY OF STATE, I certify that the Honorable J. Michael Davisson has been selected to fill the vacancy existing in the office of Indiana State Representative, District 73.

*Given under my hand and the Seal of the State of Indiana, at the City of Indianapolis, this twenty-seventh day of October, 2021, being the 245th year of the Independence of the United States, and the 204th year of the Statehood of Indiana.*

Holli Sullivan  
Indiana Secretary of State

Representative-elect J. Michael Davisson was sworn into office on November 8, 2021 by Chief Justice Rush. The oath of office is: "I, J. Michael Davisson, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Indiana, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge my duties as a member of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana to the best of my skill and ability, so help me God."

*Sworn before me, Loretta H. Rush, Chief Justice, Indiana Supreme Court, this 8th day of November, 2021*

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

The Speaker directed that the roll be called and the following members-elect answered to their names:

(R) David H. Abbott (District 82, Allen, Elkhart, LaGrange, Noble, and Whitley Counties)

(D) Mike Andrade (District 12, Lake County)

(D) Terri Jo Austin (District 36, Madison County)

(R) Mike Aylesworth (District 11, Lake and Porter Counties)

(R) Bradford J. Barrett (District 56, Wayne County)

(R) Stephen R. Bartels (District 74, Crawford, Dubois, Orange, Perry and Spencer Counties)

(D) John L. Bartlett (District 95, Marion County)

(D) Maureen Bauer (District 6, St. Joseph County)

(R) Robert W. Behning (District 91, Hendricks and Marion Counties)

(R) Bruce Borders (District 45, Daviess, Greene, Knox, Sullivan, and Vigo Counties)

(D) Pat Boy (District 9, LaPorte and Porter Counties)

(D) Chris Campbell (District 26, Tippecanoe County)

(R) Martin J. Carbaugh (District 81, Allen County)

(R) Robert W. Cherry (District 53, Hancock and Madison Counties)

(R) Edward D. Clere (District 72, Floyd County)

(R) Tony Cook (District 32, Delaware, Grant, Howard Hamilton, Madison and Tipton)

(R) Michelle Davis (District 58, Johnson County)

(R) J. Michael Davisson (District 73, Clark, Harrison, Jackson, Lawrence, Orange, and Washington Counties)

(D) Edward O. DeLaney (District 86, Marion County)

(R) Dale R. DeVon (District 5, St. Joseph County)

(R) Sean R. Eberhart (District 57, Bartholomew, Hancock and Shelby Counties)

(R) Jeff Ellington (District 62, Daviess, Greene, Martin, and Monroe Counties)

(R) Karen Engleman (District 70, Clark, Floyd, and Harrison Counties)

(D) Sue E. Errington (District 34, Delaware County)

(D) Rita Fleming (District 71, Clark County)

(R) **Randall L. Frye** (District 67, Dearborn, Decatur, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, and Switzerland Counties)

(D) **Philip K. GiaQuinta** (District 80, Allen County)

(R) **Mitch Gore** (District 89, Marion County)

(R) **Douglas L. Gutwein** (District 16, Fulton, Jasper, Newton, Pulaski, and Starke Counties)

(D) **Carey Hamilton** (District 87, Marion County)

(D) **Earl Harris** (District 2, Lake County)

(D) **Ragen H. Hatcher** (District 3, Lake County)

(D) **Ryan D. Hatfield** (District 77, Vanderburgh County)

(R) **Bob A. Heaton** (District 46, Clay, Monroe, Owen, and Vigo Counties)

(R) **Matthew D. Hostettler** (District 64, Gibson, Knox, Pike, Posey, and Vanderburgh Counties)

(R) **Todd M. Huston** (District 37, Hamilton County)

(D) **Carolyn Jackson** (District 1, Lake County)

(R) **John Jacob** (District 93, Johnson and Marion Counties)

(R) **Christopher Jeter** (District 88, Hamilton, Hancock, and Marion Counties)

(D) **Blake Johnson** (District 100, Marion County)

(R) **Jack Jordan** (District 17, Fulton and Marshall Counties)

(R) **Christopher N. Judy** (District 83, Allen and Whitley Counties)

(R) **Michael H. Karickhoff** (District 30, Grant and Howard Counties)

(R) **Joanna King** (District 49, Elkhart County)

(D) **Sheila A. Klinker** (District 27, Tippecanoe County)

(R) **Ryan Lauer** (District 59, Bartholomew County)

(R) **Cindy Ledbetter** (District 75, Pike, Spencer, and Warrick Counties)

(R) **Donald J. Lehe** (District 25, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Tippecanoe, and White Counties)

(R) **Matthew S. Lehman** (District 79, Adams, Allen, and Wells Counties)

(R) **Daniel J. Leonard** (District 50, Allen, Huntington and Wells Counties)

(R) **Shane Lindauer** (District 63, Daviess, Dubois, Martin, and Pike Counties)

(R) **Jim T. Lucas** (District 69, Bartholomew, Jackson, Jefferson, and Jennings Counties)

(R) **Randy Lyness** (District 68, Dearborn, Franklin, and Union Counties)

(R) **Ethan E. Manning** (District 23, Cass, Fulton, and Miami Counties)

(R) **Chris D. May** (District 65, Brown, Jackson, Johnson, Lawrence, and Monroe Counties)

(R) **Peggy M. Mayfield** (District 60, Monroe and Morgan Counties)

(R) **Wendy M. McNamara** (District 76, Posey and Vanderburgh Counties)

(R) **Doug Miller** (District 48, Elkhart County)

(D) **Justin W. Moed** (District 97, Marion County)

(R) **Robert D. Morris** (District 84, Allen County)

(R) **Alan P. Morrison** (District 42, Clay, Fountain, Parke, Vermillion, Vigo, and Warren Counties)

(D) **Charles "Chuck" A. Moseley** (District 10, Porter County)

(R) **Sharon K. Negele** (District 13, Benton, Fountain, Jasper, Montgomery, Newton, Tippecanoe, Warren, and White Counties)

(R) **Curt Nisly** (District 22, Elkhart and Kosciusko Counties)

(R) **Julie Othoff** (District 19, Lake and Porter Counties)

(D) **Renee Pack** (District 92, Marion County)

(R) **Zach Payne** (District 66, Clark, Jefferson, and Scott Counties)

(D) **Tonya Pfaff** (District 43, Vigo County)

(D) **Matt Pierce** (District 61, Monroe County)

(D) **Gregory W. Porter** (District 96, Marion County)

(R) **J.D. Prescott** (District 33, Blackford, Delaware, Jay, and Randolph Counties)

(R) **Jim Pressel** (District 20, LaPorte and Starke Counties)

(D) **Cherrish S. Pryor** (District 94, Marion County)

(R) **Elizabeth Rowray** (District 35, Delaware and Madison Counties)

(R) **Thomas E. Saunders** (District 54, Henry, Rush, and Wayne Counties)

(R) **Donna Schaibley** (District 24, Boone and Hamilton Counties)

(D) **Robin C. Shackelford** (District 98, Marion County)

(R) **Hal Slager** (District 15, Lake County)

(R) **Benjamin C. Smaltz** (District 52, Allen, Dekalb, and Steuben Counties)

(D) **Vernon G. Smith** (District 14, Lake County)

(R) **Craig Snow** (District 18, Grant, Kosciusko, Miami, and Wabash Counties)

(R) **Edmond L. Soliday** (District 4, Porter County)

(R) **Michael R. Speedy** (District 90, Marion County)

(R) **Gregory E. Steuerwald** (District 40, Hendricks County)

(D) **Vanessa J. Summers** (District 99, Marion County)

(R) **Jeffrey A. Thompson** (District 28, Boone and Hendricks Counties)

(R) **Jerry Torr** (District 39, Hamilton County)

(R) **Heath R. VanNatter** (District 38, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, and Howard Counties)

(R) **Ann Vermilion** (District 31, Blackford, Delaware, Grant, and Wells Counties)

(R) **Timothy C. Wesco** (District 21, Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties)

(R) **John T. Young** (District 47, Johnson and Morgan Counties)

Roll Call 1: 98 present; 2 excused -[(R) **Timothy N. Brown** (District 41, Boone, Montgomery, and Tippecanoe Counties) and (R) **Charles D. Goodrich** (District 29, Hamilton County)]. **The Speaker announced a quorum in attendance.**

## RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

### House Concurrent Resolution 1

Representatives Huston and Gutwein introduced House Concurrent Resolution 1:

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION to allow the House of Representatives and the Senate of the 122nd General Assembly to adjourn and recess separately throughout the Second Regular Session for periods in excess of three (3) consecutive days as the need, in the judgment of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, respectively, may arise.

*Whereas, The Indiana House of Representatives and the Senate met for the purpose of organization of each House to conduct the public business of the people of the State of Indiana;*

*Whereas, During the consideration of legislative business, each House may, in the respective judgment of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, deem it necessary to adjourn and recess for periods in excess of three (3) consecutive days and to operate on a schedule different from the other House;*

*Whereas, Article 4, Section 10 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana states that neither House shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three (3) consecutive days;*

*Whereas, Each House desires to consent to any adjournment or recess by the other House that might last more than three (3) days during the Second Regular Session of the 122nd General Assembly; and*

*Whereas, The House of Representatives and the Senate intend to recess after November 16, 2021, and meet again at the fall of the gavel to conduct legislative business: Therefore,*

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, the Senate concurring:*

SECTION 1. That each House of the 122nd Indiana General Assembly hereby consents to any adjournment or recess of the other House during the Second Regular Session of the 122nd General Assembly for a period in excess of three (3) days, where such recess or adjournment is approved, in the case of the Senate, by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, or, in the case of the House of Representatives, by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to inform the Senate of the passage of the Resolution.

The resolution was read a first time and adopted by voice vote. The Clerk was directed to inform the Senate of the passage of the resolution. Senate sponsors: Senators Bray and Taylor.

### House Concurrent Resolution 2

Representatives Prescott, Snow, Goodrich, Barrett, King, Lauer, VanNatter, Mayfield, Miller, Speedy, Morris, Payne, Olthoff, Zent, Morrison, Hostettler, Davis, Lucas, Lindauer, Borders, Heaton, O'Brien, Slager, Judy, Bartels, Nisly, Jeter, Young, Jordan, Abbott and Wesco introduced House Concurrent Resolution 2:

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION terminating the public health emergency first declared on March 6, 2020, in Executive Order 20-02.

*Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-02 declaring a public health emergency on March 6, 2020, under the authority of Indiana's Emergency Management and Disaster Law (IC 10-14-3) in response to the global coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic;*

*Whereas, IC 10-14-3-12 provides that a state of disaster emergency declared under IC 10-14-3 may not continue for more than thirty (30) days unless the state of disaster emergency is renewed by the governor;*

*Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-17 renewing the public health emergency declared on March 6, 2020, for an additional thirty (30) days effective April 5, 2020;*

*Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-25 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on April 5, 2020, for an additional thirty (30) days effective May 5, 2020;*

*Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-30 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on May 5, 2020, for an additional thirty (30) days effective June 4, 2020;*

*Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-34 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on June 4, 2020, for an additional thirty (30) days effective July 4, 2020;*

*Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-38 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on July 4, 2020, for an additional thirty (30) days effective August 3, 2020;*

*Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-41 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on August 3, 2020, for an additional thirty (30) days effective September 2, 2020;*

*Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-44 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on September 2, 2020, for an additional thirty (30) days effective October 2, 2020;*

*Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-47 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on October 2, 2020, for the eighth time and an additional thirty (30) days effective November 1, 2020;*

*Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-49 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on November 1, 2020, for the ninth time and an additional thirty (30) days effective December 1, 2020;*

*Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-52 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on December 1, 2020, for the tenth time and an additional thirty (30) days effective December 31, 2020;*

*Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 21-03 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on December 31, 2020, for the eleventh time and an additional thirty (30) days effective January 30, 2021;*

*Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 21-05 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on January 30, 2021, for the twelfth time and an additional thirty (30) days effective March 1, 2021;*

*Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 21-08 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on March 1, 2021, for the thirteenth time and an additional thirty (30) days effective March 31, 2021;*

*Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 21-11 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on March 31, 2021, for the*

fourteenth time and an additional thirty (30) days effective May 1, 2021;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 21-14 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on May 1, 2021, for the fifteenth time and an additional thirty (30) days effective June 1, 2021;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 21-16 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on June 1, 2021, for the sixteenth time and an additional thirty (30) days effective July 1, 2021;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 21-18 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on July 1, 2021, for the seventeenth time and an additional thirty (30) days effective August 1, 2021;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 21-22 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on August 1, 2021, for the eighteenth time and an additional thirty (30) days effective August 31, 2021;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 21-26 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on August 31, 2021, for the nineteenth time and an additional thirty (30) days effective October 1, 2021;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 21-28 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on October 1, 2021, for the twentieth time and an additional thirty (30) days effective November 1, 2021;

Whereas, IC 10-14-3-12 authorizes the general assembly, by concurrent resolution, to terminate a state of disaster emergency at any time and specifies that, if the general assembly terminates a state of disaster emergency under the statute, the governor shall issue an executive order or proclamation ending the state of disaster emergency;

Whereas, The general assembly finds that Hoosiers are responsible for and capable of protecting the health and safety of themselves and their families;

Whereas, The general assembly finds that Hoosiers have been educated and informed on how to properly protect themselves and their families from COVID-19;

Whereas, The general assembly finds that the state of emergency is no longer necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Indiana;

Whereas, The general assembly finds that state agency actions initiated in response to COVID-19, regardless of whether the agency actions were initiated under the authority of the declared public health emergency, are no longer necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Indiana;

Whereas, The general assembly finds that the various restrictions imposed upon the residents of Indiana to implement the state of disaster emergency are no longer necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Indiana; and

Whereas, The general assembly recommends that state agencies terminate, withdraw, or otherwise revoke all state agency actions, policies, or orders initiated in response to COVID-19: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, the Senate concurring:

SECTION 1. That the General Assembly terminates the public health emergency that was originally declared by the Governor on March 6, 2020, and renewed on a monthly basis ever since, effective immediately upon the passage of this resolution by the Senate.

SECTION 2. That the General Assembly determines that any actions taken by the Governor or any requirements issued by the Governor pursuant to his authority under an emergency declaration are also hereby terminated.

SECTION 3. That copies of this resolution be transmitted by the Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives to Governor Eric Holcomb.

The resolution was read a first time and referred to the Committee on Rules and Legislative Procedures.

### House Concurrent Resolution 3

Representatives Nisly, Jacob, Prescott, Payne, Jeter, Borders and Snow introduced House Concurrent Resolution 3:

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION terminating the public health emergency first declared on March 6, 2020, in Executive Order 20-02.

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-02 declaring a public health emergency on March 6, 2020, under the authority of Indiana's Emergency Management and Disaster Law (IC 10-14-3) in response to the global coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic;

Whereas, IC 10-14-3-12 provides that a state of disaster emergency declared under IC 10-14-3 may not continue for more than thirty (30) days unless the state of disaster emergency is renewed by the governor;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-17 renewing the public health emergency declared on March 6, 2020, for an additional thirty (30) days effective April 5, 2020;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-25 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on April 5, 2020, for an additional thirty (30) days effective May 5, 2020;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-30 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on May 5, 2020, for an additional thirty (30) days effective June 4, 2020;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-34 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on June 4, 2020, for an additional thirty (30) days effective July 4, 2020;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-38 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on July 4, 2020, for an additional thirty (30) days effective August 3, 2020;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-41 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on August 3, 2020, for an additional thirty (30) days effective September 2, 2020;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-44 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on September 2, 2020, for an additional thirty (30) days effective October 2, 2020;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-47 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on October 2, 2020, for the eighth time and an additional thirty (30) days effective November 1, 2020;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order

20-49 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on November 1, 2020, for the ninth time and an additional thirty (30) days effective December 1, 2020;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-52 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on December 1, 2020, for the tenth time and an additional thirty (30) days effective December 31, 2020;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 21-03 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on December 31, 2020, for the eleventh time and an additional thirty (30) days effective January 30, 2021;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 21-05 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on January 30, 2021, for the twelfth time and an additional thirty (30) days effective March 1, 2021;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 21-08 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on March 1, 2021, for the thirteenth time and an additional thirty (30) days effective March 31, 2021;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 21-11 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on March 31, 2021, for the fourteenth time and an additional thirty (30) days effective May 1, 2021;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 21-14 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on May 1, 2021, for the fifteenth time and an additional thirty (30) days effective June 1, 2021;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 21-16 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on June 1, 2021, for the sixteenth time and an additional thirty (30) days effective July 1, 2021;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 21-18 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on July 1, 2021, for the seventeenth time and an additional thirty (30) days effective August 1, 2021;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 21-22 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on August 1, 2021, for the eighteenth time and an additional thirty (30) days effective August 31, 2021;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 21-26 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on August 31, 2021, for the nineteenth time and an additional thirty (30) days effective October 1, 2021;

Whereas, Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 21-28 renewing the public health emergency originally declared on March 6, 2020, and renewed on October 1, 2021, for the twentieth time and an additional thirty (30) days effective November 1, 2021;

Whereas, IC 10-14-3-12 authorizes the general assembly, by concurrent resolution, to terminate a state of disaster emergency at any time and specifies that, if the general assembly terminates a state of disaster emergency under the statute, the governor shall issue an executive order or proclamation ending the state of disaster emergency;

Whereas, The general assembly finds that Hoosiers are responsible for and capable of protecting the health and safety of themselves and their families;

Whereas, The general assembly finds that Hoosiers have been educated and informed on how to properly protect themselves and their families from COVID-19;

Whereas, The general assembly finds that the state of emergency is no longer necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Indiana;

Whereas, The general assembly finds that state agency actions initiated in response to COVID-19, regardless of whether the agency actions were initiated under the authority of the declared public health emergency, are no longer necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Indiana;

Whereas, The general assembly finds that the various restrictions imposed upon the residents of Indiana to implement the state of disaster emergency are no longer necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Indiana; and

Whereas, The general assembly recommends that state agencies terminate, withdraw, or otherwise revoke all state agency actions, policies, or orders initiated in response to COVID-19: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, the Senate concurring:

SECTION 1. That the General Assembly terminates the public health emergency that was originally declared by the Governor on March 6, 2020, and renewed for the twentieth time on November 1, 2021, effective immediately upon the passage of this resolution by the Senate.

SECTION 2. That the General Assembly determines that any actions taken by the Governor or any requirements issued by the Governor pursuant to his authority under an emergency declaration are also hereby terminated.

SECTION 3. That copies of this resolution be transmitted by the Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives to Governor Eric Holcomb.

The resolution was read a first time and referred to the Committee on Rules and Legislative Procedures

#### OPENING REMARKS BY TODD M. HUSTON

I could not be happier to join all of you, my colleagues, in this House Chamber to formally kick off the next legislative session. Never has there been such a short period of time between the end of the last one and the start of a new one. That is not lost on me. After the challenges of the past year and a half, I am nothing but optimistic about our future. Even through the toughest of times, we knew Hoosiers' resiliency, along with the power of faith and prayer, would bring us through this storm.

When I look back at all that has unfolded since March 2020, there is one thing – one feeling – that sticks out to me, and that is compassion. Communities large and small pulled together to support one another. To me, it was the single greatest reflection of the Hoosier spirit. To see compassion in action, consider the efforts of our local churches, and faith- and community-based organizations. They have done extraordinary work during these times, and I want to highlight a few examples.

Recently, I visited Shepherd Community Center, a faith-based organization located on the east side of Indianapolis. It is in my

friend Rep. Blake Johnson's district. Whether it is providing food, offering education, supporting mental health or ensuring access to vaccinations, Shepherd seeks to serve its community in every single way.

Last week, Rep. Tim O'Brien and I took a visit Youth First, located in Southwest Indiana, in the city of Evansville. It is an organization on the frontlines in supporting kids as they deal with issues like mental health and abuse. This program serves a growing number of schools and counties in Southwest Indiana by leveraging private investment, as well as state funding. It was inspiring to hear about the work they're doing to improve the lives and outcomes for Hoosier students.

These organizations and so many others spent the last year pouring into their communities. Showing compassion through service because that is the Hoosier way. The last month has also shown the Hoosier spirit is not just about helping our neighbors. It is about having compassion without borders.

Rep. Stephen Bartels recently organized a group of House members to visit Camp Atterbury. They saw firsthand the tremendous work being done by the Indiana National Guard, state agencies and volunteer groups to support the Afghan refugees. Many of them supported our military forces in Afghanistan, and now they find themselves in an unknown land with only the clothes on their backs as they arrived. We should all be proud that Indiana's efforts to help these refugees have been second to none. I am also hearing that Indiana's efforts are being looked at as a national model.

I want to thank Rep. Chris Judy and other members who suggested to me that we organize our annual charity event to support these refugees, and I am pleased to announce today that we are launching a donation drive at the Statehouse for this upcoming session to gather warm clothing and other needed items for these individuals.

You know, one of my favorite quotes is from my pastor. He said that, "we impress people with our strengths but we connect with people through our weaknesses." These Hoosiers I mentioned, they do just that. Hoosiers with the heart to serve are the soul of Indiana. And if you do not have optimism and hope after meeting with these folks, I really suggest you go get your pulse checked.

While the challenges of operating last session during a pandemic and having to come back to complete redistricting were quite unique, I am so pleased with the work that we did.

I want to review some of the highlights with you.

We passed a bipartisan budget that invested over a billion dollars in education, mainly to address teacher pay and our schools are responding. In northern Indiana, DeKalb County Central approved a \$3,750 pay raise for teachers – the largest increase there in more than five years. At IPS, first-year salaries next year will top over \$50,000. In Paoli Community Schools, they increased teacher salaries by \$5,000. At Randolph Eastern School Corporation, they increased teacher salaries by \$4,100. And at North Montgomery School Corporation, they are giving

their teachers rated effective and highly effective a \$4,000 pay raise. These are just a few examples of how money from the last budget is going into teachers' paychecks to reward them for a job well done.

Through Senate Bill 5, we gave communities the powers to deal with the pandemic in ways that are unique to them. We had a ton of discussions in this chamber about understanding the uniqueness of our own communities and our own counties, and we gave them the power to respond in the way they felt necessary. So many of them have taken on that responsibility in the right and appropriate manner. And for that I say thank you. We are proud that you used the legislation to do the right thing.

To boost Hoosiers' health, we invested \$100 million to fund mental health initiatives and \$50 million more for the Health Issues and Challenges grant program.

We passed bipartisan, common-sense election reforms to make it easier to vote and harder to cheat, protecting the long-standing integrity of Hoosier elections.

We saw House Bill 1006 recognized as a national model for supporting law enforcement. And we are returning \$545 million to Indiana citizens via the Automatic Taxpayer Refund.

The results of strong, conservative leadership are all around us. Indiana has the lowest unemployment rate of any of our neighbors while also having the highest participation rate. We had the highest population growth of any neighboring state over the past 10 years. We have one of the top infrastructure plans in the country with improvements in every portion of the state. I often joke that the state flower should really be an orange cone. And while we have made all these improvements, we have done it while reducing debt. And we have invested in our state parks to improve the experience for Hoosiers while attracting tourists from other states.

And finally, we have very little debt, but our last remaining large obligation, the Pre-96 Teacher Retirement Fund, was paid down by over \$600 million just in the past year. That gives future General Assemblies great financial flexibility moving forward.

Despite our enviable position, we are not without challenges. Opportunities and important work lay ahead of us. Before I go into specifics, I want to share one goal that will be top of my mind as long as I have a chance to lead this body. The 2020 Census numbers showed that Indiana outpaced our neighbors, but we did not add to our population at the pace needed to grow our state and our economy to meet the level of opportunity that currently presents itself.

Most important, those Census numbers highlighted a major population shift, that while not unique to Indiana, should be concerning to all of us. We must help all Hoosier communities grow.

That is why I am so excited about the READI Program. We invested \$500 million into this initiative, which spurred all 92 counties to submit plans that leveraged over \$14 billion in

private and philanthropic investment. It is about promoting growth in all corners of our state, and I cannot wait to see the results.

All of our public policies must be aligned to meet this goal.

In education, we invested a record financial resources into K-12 education and provided more families with educational choice. However, we still face an educational crisis. Just 28.6 of Hoosier students passed both sections of the ILEARN test, a test created with the feedback of teachers on the basic skills students need to be proficient. Never has it been more important to focus on getting back to the basics and we need to create an environment for them to do it. I have asked Chairman Bob Behning and Secretary of Education Katie Jenner to work together to remove all unnecessary and unproductive barriers, as we do not have time for anything else but focus and resolve.

We also heard from parents loud and clear. They want to know exactly what is being taught in classrooms. This year, House Republicans will introduce a bill ensuring that parents have more insight and input into curriculum materials, and surveys being used in their schools. A parent's voice must be heard and respected, and we will ensure that is the case. We should always remind ourselves that it is so important that teachers and schools teach kids how to think, not what to think.

And along those same lines, we doubled down last year on giving parents the ability to choose the best education for their children. We passed the most expansive school choice legislation in the country. Know that we will continue to empower parents when it comes to their children's education. Vouchers in the past year grew nearly 25 percent and now total over 43,000 students statewide. Clearly, there is a demand, and we should provide as many options to parents as possible.

We also know that rising medical and energy costs are impacting Hoosier families and businesses. Chairmen Brad Barrett and Martin Carbaugh are working collaboratively with health care providers and insurers to find a pathway to our goal of reducing costs. I have talked with far too many businesses and organizations struggling with health-care premium increases and this simply must be addressed. We will be laying out clear expectations for them with metrics to measure their progress.

Even before the inflationary increases we will see this winter, our energy prices were too high. Chairman Ed Soliday and the 21st Century Energy Task Force have been hard at work on creating energy policy in our state, including working with our utility partners to reduce costs. Too often, far-away decision makers like those on Wall Street and coastal elites – who only fly over states like Indiana in their private jets – have pushed energy policy built on unrealistic goals and failed supply strategies. In Indiana, we will focus on reliability, affordability and realistic sustainability as key objectives. When energy prices are too high, they impact Hoosier families and businesses, as well as our ability to compete in attracting economic development to our state. It is well past time that our state and others like ours re-establish control over energy policies that impact us.

And let us just be candid, inflation is a real problem here and across the country, and it most significantly impacts low- and middle-income individuals. We are not going to help those people with more government spending and programs. Rather, as I noted earlier, here in Indiana, we are returning \$545 million back to Hoosiers via the automatic taxpayer refund. While Washington, D.C., politicians are devaluing our money via inflation, we are putting more money back into the hands of our constituents.

You have my commitment that we will continue to look for other ways to do that this coming year, while ensuring we all have the resources needed to meet the responsibilities of state government. Let us never forget it is our constituents' money – not ours.

In Indiana, we have a strong history of standing up for the rights of the unborn, and we will continue to build on our pro-life efforts this session. There are several cases working through the courts, and we are keeping a close eye on their progress. We stand ready to act legislatively if needed.

These and many other important issues will come before this body during upcoming session. I have often heard it said that the whole makes legislation better than the individual parts.

I invite Leader GiaQuinta and other members of the Democratic caucus to join us in working through all of the legislation facing the House. We stand ready to work with you and look forward to your thoughts and input throughout the process.

I know I speak for Leader Matt Lehman and Caucus Chair Greg Steuerwald, when I say we look forward to being able to meet and socialize in a normal way this upcoming year. I am committed to reaching out to each one of you this session to reconnect and get to know you all better. I think back upon a breakfast I had in Lake County earlier this year with Reps. Smith, Olthoff, Slager, Andrade, Harris and Jackson, and just the pleasure it was to just sit with them. I soon quickly realized Rep. Jackson may be one of the most interesting people I have ever met. Just tremendous. I hope all of us have the opportunity to really come to together and get to know each other better.

We should keep in mind what President Truman said, "It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit." I want Hoosiers to be the beneficiary of our accomplishments, and I trust all of you feel the same.

I want to leave you with a final thought, a thought that has really weighed heavy in my mind in recent weeks.

There are too many people in the world making a lot of money right now being what a friend of mine refers to as being conflict entrepreneurs. By that, I mean they are profiting by finding ways to divide us and not unite us.

I spent a good portion of the last few years reading books about our nation's history, and I read my favorite history book of all time, the Bible, each and every night. People will try to convince you that things are worse now than ever before, that



democracy is crumbling and the existing problems are greater than we have ever seen. Let me reassure you that while the issues might be different and social media might amplify them, this country has overcome larger challenges, and we will do it again.

I am convinced that we live in the greatest time in our country and in our state's history. Opportunity is more available today than it has ever been before. Compassion is overflowing. The Hoosier spirit is on fire.

As servant leaders, I ask you to join me. Let us roll up our sleeves, keep our focus and resolve on addressing the issues that matter to those that we serve. Let our compassion be seen through our actions. That is why Hoosiers sent us here, and it is up to us to seize opportunities.

Together, we can ensure Indiana achieves its greatness.

Thank you.

### **ORGANIZATION OF SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

#### **HOUSE MOTION**

Mr. Speaker: I move that a committee of four (4) members of this House be appointed by the Speaker to notify the Senate that the House of Representatives has met, formed a quorum, and is now prepared to proceed with the legislative business and to receive any communications which the Senate may transmit.

LEHMAN

Motion prevailed. The Speaker appointed Representatives Lehe, Ziemke, Boy and Errington.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Speaker: Your committee which was appointed by the Speaker to notify the Senate that the House has met, has formed a quorum, and is prepared to proceed with the legislative business and to receive any communications which the Senate may transmit, respectfully reports that it has performed the duties assigned.

LEHE  
ZIEMKE

BOY  
ERRINGTON

Report adopted.

#### **HOUSE MOTION**

Mr. Speaker: I move that a committee of four (4) members of this House be appointed by the Speaker to act with a like committee of the Senate to wait upon the Governor and to notify him of the organization of both Houses of the General Assembly and to inform him that the General Assembly is ready for the transaction of legislative business.

LEHMAN

Motion prevailed. The Speaker appointed Representatives Saunders, Cook, Jackson and Klinker.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Speaker: Your committee which was appointed to act with a like committee of the Senate to wait upon the Governor, to notify him of the organization of both Houses of the General Assembly, and to inform him that they are ready for the transaction of legislative business, begs leave to report that it has performed the duties assigned.

SAUNDERS  
COOK

JACKSON  
KLINKER

Report adopted.

### **OTHER BUSINESS ON THE SPEAKER'S TABLE**

#### **HOUSE MOTION**

Mr. Speaker: I move that when we do adjourn, we adjourn until the fall of the gavel at a time and date as determined by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in consultation with the Minority Leader.

LEHMAN

The motion was adopted by a constitutional majority.

On the motion of Representative J. Michael Davisson the House adjourned at 2:03 p.m., this sixteenth day of November, 2021.

TODD M. HUSTON  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

M. CAROLINE SPOTTS  
Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives