



## This Week in Indiana History

The Indiana Pi Bill Passes the House:  
February 6th, 1897

In 1897, Bill #246, famously known as the Indiana Pi Bill, was introduced and passed by the House unanimously. In it, amateur Mathematician Edwin Goodwin claimed that Pi was not the recognizable 3.14 everyone came to know in grade school, but actually 3.2.

Goodwin, a proud Hoosier, intended to allow Indiana schools to teach his copyrighted formula for free if the bill became a law. However, other states would have to pay.

Fortunately, a visiting Purdue professor was in Indianapolis and spoke with members of the Senate before they took up the bill. After much ridicule, Bill #246 was shelved indefinitely.



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Professor Waldo spoke to lawmakers and persuaded them not to support House Bill #246. He is pictured here in the 1899 Purdue Debris yearbook, which you can view at the Indiana State Library!