



April 18, 2019

Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) is the public policy voice of the Catholic bishops in Indiana regarding state and national matters.

Next week the legislative session begins its final week. House and Senate are voting to concur with changes in their bills and conference committees are meeting to make final adjustments before time runs out. **By law the final day for the 2019 session is, Monday, April 29.** However, leadership hopes to end before the end of the week, April 26. The end **will depend on when an agreement on the budget can be reached** and with some time for legislators to review it.

SB 613, Consumer credit, is dead for the session! Because many Republican caucus members were opposed to it, there was **not enough support for the bill to pass on third reading.** Hence, the sponsor, Representative Matt Lehman (R – Berne), did not call it for a vote. Since it **did not pass the House the bill dies.** Technically, **because the bill passed the Senate,** its content **could be added to some other bill in a conference committee; but this is unlikely** given the lack of support within the House caucus and only getting out of the Senate by one vote. Also, the entire Democrat caucus was opposed. **Thank you to all who contacted your Representative and Senator in opposition to the bill.** The bill would have allowed high interest rates for loans to persons with subpar credit. Proponents believe this is the only way these families can have access to credit for household needs. Opponents believe the ends do not justify the means and helping should not result in crippling debt. **This issue may be one of the topics investigated by an interim study committee later this year.**

On Tuesday, the **Senate passed HB 1001, Biennial budget, mostly along party lines.** The Senate **debated over 20 amendments** on Monday during second reading. While most were rejected, **they did accept a provision to restore the 70% tier school scholarship** that was part of the House version. **Thanks to those who contacted the Senate to restore this provision.** As expected, the House dissented on the Senate's version. **A conference committee has been appointed and negotiations have been ongoing** this week and will continue over the weekend. Final revenue forecast was provided on Wednesday. One objective for this session remains for the choice program. **ICC is attempting to include provisions that allow siblings to receive scholarships.** The **budget bill will be among the final bills passed this session.**

Once content regarding an issue/topic has passed one chamber it remains eligible throughout the session. Hence, during conference committee phase of the session, the content may appear in another bill if the author and caucus agrees. This is the case for the bill to allow persons with gun license to carry gun on school property attached to a church. **The House dissented on HB 1284 which provides for civil immunity for persons who use force to defend themselves or others and harm someone using a gun.** Hence, **Representative Jim Lucas (R – Seymour), wants to add the school/church content to his bill, HB 1284.** This content was **added by the House to SB 119.** However, Senator Jim. Tomes (R – Wadesville), **dissented and wants to remove it from this bill.** For this change to take place **each caucus must agree to have its committee member sign the report and each body will have to vote on it.**

The House dissented on the Senate version of HB 1004, School safety. The House intends to return the bill closer to the original version. The **controversy is due to a provision asking schools to conduct mental health and social behavior survey** in order to access youth needs. The **House version maintains an opt out for schools and provides two opportunities for parents to opt out** of participation if the school elects to conduct the survey. The rest of the bill authorizes funding for safety equipment and allows funds to be used for preventive services for troubled students.

The Senate concurred with the changes in SB 365, Funding for child welfare programs. The bill allows the Department of Child Services to **collaborate with churches and supportive local community organizations** that may provide assistance in meeting the needs of children and families in crisis. **The bill now goes to the Governor for signature.**

In addition to the Update, **more detailed information regarding the bills, as well as detailed information about the legislative process and the Indiana General Assembly can be obtained by clicking [here](#).** Archived I-CAN Updates, ICC positions and other background information can be accessed on the ICC website www.indianacc.org