



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

### **Education Issues:**

**HB1066** Various Education Matters, authored by Rep. Thompson from Lizton. This bill provides for siblings and foster children to attend the same schools regardless of differing eligibility requirements. It also allows for the transfer of records for safety issues. Additionally, it provides for autism awareness training. ICC and INPEA have been working for years to address foster child and sibling voucher eligibility. The language affecting foster child and siblings was removed because this was not a budget year. The ICC supports this bill. We hope that this language will return next year and be successful.

**SB455** School Accreditation, authored by Sen Buchanan from Lebanon. This bill attempts to modernizes school accreditation and merge different accreditation paths into one system. It passed the House committee 10-2.

### **Financial Matters:**

**SB327** Reporting of Consumer Loans by Unlicensed Lenders, authored by Sen Zay from Huntington. This would require out of state lenders who lend to borrowers in Indiana to capture data which would not reveal the identity of the borrowers. This would have kept track out of state vender/ loaners. It died in committee.

**SB395** Uniform Consumer Credit Code, authored by Sen. Bassler from Washington. This bill changes some of the fees that can be charged on certain loans. Allows for a maximum fee of \$200 for loans over \$4000.00. Also prohibits precomputed consumer credit sales. The ICC supports measures that provide relief for the needy. While all aspects of this bill are not equally balanced between the lender and the borrower, it does not do more harm to prospective borrowers.

### **Health Issues:**

**SB1** Tobacco and Vaping Smoking Age, authored by Sen Charbonneau from Valparaiso. This bill raises the age to be able to buy and smoke these products from 18 to 21. It passed out of the House Public Health Committee 10-0.

**SB249** Exploitation of Dependents and Endangered Adults, authored by Sen. Young from Indianapolis. This bill seeks to protect vulnerable individuals by acknowledging and providing penalties when (1) person commits exploitation of a dependent or an endangered adult if the person recklessly uses or exerts control over the personal services or property of an endangered adult or dependent; and (2) person in a position of trust commits exploitation of a dependent or an endangered adult if the person recklessly engages in self-dealing with the property of the dependent or endangered adult. Increases the penalty if the person has a prior unrelated conviction. The ICC supports this bill which passed unanimously 11-0.

**SB299** Fetal remains, authored by Sen. Liz Brown from Fort Wayne. This bill gives information and guidelines for the dignified handling of fetal remains through either burial or cremation. The ICC supports this bill which passed on third reading with some clarifying language for the clinics regarding recording keeping and transmittal of the remains.

**HB1317** Health Care Advance Directive, authored by Rep. Kirchhofer from Beech Grove. This bill allows a person to make a health care advance directive and to appoint a healthcare representative. This bill which updates and simplifies current law by eliminating the need for a healthcare power of attorney and a living will, passed unanimously out of the House. It provides for a sample directive to be available as a guide. It also provides for the five wishes (1) The Person Who Will Make Care Decisions For The Patient (2) The Kind of Medical Treatment To Receive (3) How Comfortable The Patient Would Like to Be (4) How They Wish People to Treat Them (5) What They Would Like Their Loved Ones To Know, to be addressed. The ICC supports this bill in its current form. Unfortunately, the bill was withdrawn from the hearing schedule. Please support the passage of this bill in its current form by contacting your [legislator](#).

**HB1199** Palliative Care, authored by Rep. Clere from New Albany. This would allow for a hospice provider licensed in Indiana to provide community based palliative care to a patient who is not eligible for hospice, if the hospice provider meets certain licensing requirements. This bill passed on third reading in the Senate and returned to the House for amendments. The ICC supports the respectful care for those at the end of their natural lives.

### **Family and Other Issues:**

**SB289** Family and Juvenile Law Matters, authored by Sen Grooms from Jeffersonville. This amended bill would allow a married minor who is at least 16 years of age to be defined as an adult. Additionally, an adult is a minor who has been completely emancipated by a court. More importantly this bill also raises the minimum age to marry from 15 years of age to 16 years of age if the following measures are met: (1), the individual's intended spouse is not more than four years older than the individual; (2) a juvenile court has issued an order allowing the individual to marry; and (3) the individual: (A) completes any premarital counseling required under the order; (B) applies for a marriage license not earlier than 15 days after the order is issued; and (C) includes a certified copy of the order with the individual's application for a marriage license. The ICC supports this bill which seeks to ensure that people enter into marriage thoughtfully and without duress and reduce trafficking.

**SB340 Private Property Matters**, authored by Sen Spartz from Noblesville. This bill currently contains language that adversely affects the tenant in a landlord – tenant relationship. It would allow a landlord to evict a tenant if a dwelling is found to be unsafe or uninhabitable. It also currently allows victorious landlords, but not victorious tenants, to collect attorneys' fees. The ICC affirms that housing is a basic human right. Aspects of this bill put that basic right at risk. For these reasons, the ICC opposes these provisions of the bill. We encourage you to oppose these parts of the bill. Please contact both your Senator and Representative. [Click Here](#)

**Please assist the ICC's efforts by contacting your legislator.** Click [here](#) to find your legislator. ICC Archived I-CAN Updates, ICC positions and other background information can also be accessed on the ICC website and by clicking [here](#) **More detailed information regarding these and other bills, as well as detailed information about the legislative process and the Indiana General Assembly can be obtained by clicking [here](#).**