



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

*The following bills are of interest to the Church community:*

**SB395** authored by Sen Bassler from Washington. Portions of this bill would allow interest rates to raise from 25% to 36% on loans to people who have few options when borrowing money. The USCCB has noted that greed can lead to injustice. The ICC believes that it is unjust for lenders to take advantage of the poor who find themselves in dire situations and in need of financial assistance. It is not only unjust to charge exorbitant interest rates, it also violates the 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment against stealing. Taking money in the form of an excessive interest rate is a type of stealing. These higher interest rates can also be indicators of greed. The Church admonishes the faithful to avoid the seven deadly or capital sins, which includes greed. For these reasons, the ICC opposed this bill during the Senate's Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee meeting this week. The ICC encourages readers to contact your legislators to also oppose SB395. <http://indianacc.org/signup.html>

**HB1199** Palliative Care authored by Rep Clere from New Albany. Acknowledging the respect for life to its natural end, the ICC has monitored this bill which requires a home health agency to have a hospice license in order to offer palliative care to address the physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of a patient when managing their pain and their symptoms. The ICC supports measures that allow a natural death with dignity.

**SB67** Township Homeless Assistance, authored by Sen Sandlin from Indianapolis. This bill provides for townships with more than 10,000 residents to give aid to the homeless who may not be from their township or who cannot prove their legal residence. It also requires that a list of available resources for the homeless be published and distributed no later than March 1 of each year. The ICC supports effort to assist the vulnerable in our communities.

**B111** TANF Eligibility, authored by Sen Jon Ford from Terre Haute. This bill would change eligibility and benefits levels for the first time since 1988, for those receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). This increase would help to lessen the financial instability of a very needy population. It currently is not scheduled for a hearing and because this is a short session ending March 14, time is running out. Please join the ICC in supporting this bill by clicking here <http://indianacc.org/signup.html> to contact your legislator.

**SB449** Juveniles, authored by Houchin from Salem. The ICC has concerns with SB449 which would allow a 12-year old in certain cases, to be waived to adult court. This lessens the opportunity for rehabilitation and can negatively impact the child and the community. Children who are tried in adult court experience a 34% higher recidivism rate than children handled in the juvenile system. The Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) found that children are five times more likely to be sexually assaulted in adult facilities than in juvenile facilities. Sadly, children held in adult facilities are up to 9 times more likely to commit suicide. Finally, there is also the question of competency for a 12-year-old to stand trial and to assess multiple charges or plea agreements.

Archived I-CAN Updates, ICC positions and other background information can also be accessed on the ICC website. <http://www.indianacc.org>

**More detailed information regarding these and other bills, as well as information about the legislative process and the Indiana General Assembly can be obtained by clicking [here](#).**