



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

The Indiana General Assembly ended its 2020 session on March 11, 2020. Listed below are the outcomes of some of the bills that the ICC monitored, supported or opposed.

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. This went to conference committee and the report was adopted. It can now be sent to the governor for his signature.

SB67, then HB 1113 Township Homeless Assistance, authored by Sen Sandlin from Indianapolis. This bill would have provided 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 required that a list of available resources for the homeless be published and distributed no later than March 1 of each year. The ICC supported this effort to assist the vulnerable in our communities. The bill died, then relevant language was placed in **HB1113** Department of Local Government Finance, authored by Rep. Leonard from Huntington. Unfortunately, the language regarding the homeless was stripped from the bill before it came out of the conference committee.

SB299 Fetal Remains, authored by Brown of Fort Wayne. This bill requires the department of health to be accountable for tracking that the clinics have treated the remains with dignity. After adding an amendment to clarify language regarding funeral homes, the bill's conference committee report was approved by both chambers and awaits the governor's signature.

SB340, then SB148 Private Property Matters, authored by Sen Spartz from Noblesville. This bill contained language that adversely affected the tenant in a landlord – tenant relationship and gave considerable leverage to the landlord. Additionally, it rescinded prior laws across the state that deal with landlord tenant relationships. It also offered little protection from retaliation from a landlord if a tenant filed a complaint or had a legitimate grievance. For these reasons, the ICC opposed these provisions. These disturbing parts were added to **SB148** Zoning and Manufactured Homes, authored by Sen. Doriot from Syracuse without vetting, a hearing or testimony. Language later added during the conference committee and approved by both houses added some protections for tenants against landlord retaliation. Tenants' advocates still oppose this bill and encourage people to [click here](#) to contact the governor to discourage him from signing **SB148** into law.

SB449 Juveniles, authored by Houchin from Salem. The ICC opposed this bill which would have allowed 12-year old children, in certain cases, to be waived to adult court. This was the second year this bill was offered and for a second time, it did not survive the legislative process.

HB1004 Health Matters, authored by Rep. Smaltz from Auburn. This bill has disturbed health care providers, patient advocates and the ICC because it seeks to limit how providers could charge for some of their services based on where they take place and whether or not the provider is in or out of network. In enacted, these changes could affect the revenue stream of hospitals, which could then adversely affect the delivery of services to the most vulnerable health care clients. The conference committee report was approved by both houses and now can be signed by the governor.

HB1317 Health Care Advance Directive authored by Rep Kirchhofer from Beech Grove. Allows a person to make health care advance directive and to appoint a healthcare representative without conflicting documents. There was some talk that this allowed doctors to “practice law”. However, many elder care, trust and estate attorneys were consulted during drafting of the bill and either suggested or approved the language. This bill died, but because it passed out of the house, Indiana law allows language to be added to another bill. It was thought that it would become part of **HB1326**, Community Mental Health Centers. This did not happen. Advocates for Advanced Directives will try again next session.

HB1006 Minimum Age to Marry and Emancipation of Minors, Authored by Kirchhofer from Beech Grove. Bill. Originally **HB1418** authored by Rep. Engleman from Georgetown, then shortly included in **SB289**, Family and Juvenile Law Matters, authored by Sen. Grooms from Jeffersonville. The ICC monitored this bill because it sought to prevent abuse and trafficking as well as ensure that young people are seeking marriage for mature and loving motives. During conference committee it was became as was approved by the house and senate as **HB1006**. It can be sent to the governor to sign.

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 was sent to the governor for his signature.

HB1066 Various Education Matters, authored by Rep. Thompson from Lizton it would have provided for siblings and foster children to attend the same schools regardless of differing eligibility requirement. This language was stripped from the bill.

SB109 Statute of Limitations, authored by Sen. Crider form Greenfield. This allows child sexual assault criminal cases that may have been barred to be filed no later than five years from the earlier of the date on which: (1) the state first discovers DNA evidence sufficient to charge the offender; (2) the state first becomes aware of a recording that provides evidence sufficient to charge the offender; or (3) a person confesses to the offense. This bill was sent to the governor to sign.

HB 1265 Drinking Water Testing authored by Rep. Jackson from Hammond, this originally only referred to schools in Gary, now it is a statewide requirement for school corporations to test drinking water for lead before 2023. Awaits the governor’s signature.

SB223 Free Application for Federal Student Aid FASFA Requirements. Authored by Sen. Leising from Oldenburg, requires all high school seniors to complete a FAFSA unless a waiver is requested. This bill failed after going over to the House.

SB246 Mental Health Services Authored by Crider from Greenfield. Requires a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a mental health provider to apply for a secured school grant. This will require to schools if applying for safety grant to have a MOU for services available to families, if they wish to utilize this provider. The acceptable providers are broad and would include Catholic Charities counselors. It is ready for the governor's signature.

B312 Parents with Disabilities. Authored by Sen. Niezgodski of South Bend, acknowledges and affirms the need to respect the rights of disabled parents in matters before the state. It also requires disability awareness training in the department of child services. Despite passing unanimously out of the Senate, this bill died in the House.

The following bills were opposed by the ICC because they were in opposition to the Church's teaching regarding the respect and dignity of life. They will not become law this year.

HB1020 End of Life Options, authored by Rep. Pierce from Bloomington. This was essentially physician-assisted suicide.

HB1141 Birth Control Prescriptions, authored by Rep. Fleming of Jeffersonville. This would have allowed pharmacists to prescribe and dispense contraceptives.

HB1413 Assisted Reproduction and Gestational Surrogacy, authored by Rep. Eberhart from Shelbyville. This would have allowed contracts for surrogacy to be enforceable contracts.

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](#).**