



March 14, 2019

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

House Family, Children and Human Affairs Committee heard SB 440, TANF eligibility, but did not take a vote. The committee is supportive of the bill but wants to get clarification from the administration regarding fiscal impact on other programs supported by TANF dollars. TANF block grant has had a surplus for several years. Senator Jon Ford (R – Terre Haute), the author, and House sponsor, Representative Cindy Ziemke (R – Batesville), were meeting with administration officials to clarify. **The bill will be considered next week by the same committee.**

SB 201, Health provider ethical exemption, was amended on second reading to remove the definitions for criminal section in the bill. The purpose of the bill is to **provide conscience protection for health care providers** in order not to be forced to participate in **abortion related procedures**. There is no need for criminal code as the conscience protection is an affirmative law and no penalty is associated with it. **SB 201 passed the House on a bipartisan vote of 69 – 25.** The bill **returns to the Senate**. Although it was amended, it is **expected that the Senate will concur**. The bill adds pharmacists, nurses, and physician assistants to the law exempting them from participation in abortion.

The press conference in opposition to SB 613, Consumer credit, was well attended and extensive coverage of the bill's harms was generated. The bill remains in the **House Financial Institutions Committee**, chaired by Representative Woody Burton (R – Whiteland). **Please contact his office at h58@iga.in.gov** The bill **provides for additional high interest loans well in excess of Indiana's criminal loan sharking law.** Loans of 99% and up to 190% for period of 6 months or longer are not in the best interest of vulnerable families. These types of loans will not help struggling families to build credit; these loans primarily will enrich the companies.

Senate Public Policy Committee passed HB 1517, Charity gaming, without amendments or dissent. The bill **updates the charity gaming law**; the bill was developed collaboratively by the agency and charitable organizations. **It is expected to pass the Senate next week.**

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