



# I-CANUpdate

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April 13, 2017

### INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS (1967-2017)

**Both chambers are busy with concurrence votes on the floor and conference committees are meeting to work out differences.** Progress continues but the big issues such as pre-K, road funding, and budget will not be resolved until next week.

**Senate concurred with House on SB 404, Abortion, child abuse, and human trafficking, passed 31-10. The bill now combines parts of HB 1128 and SB 404.** It now provides for separate licensing of chemical and surgical abortion facilities, codifies abortion reporting to the Department of Health and seeks information regarding abortion complications from hospital ER's. The parts from the initial SB 404 strengthens parental rights by requiring that parents must prove parentage to give consent for an adolescent's abortion, increases the age of reporting child sex abuse from under 14 to under 16 years of age. **The bill now goes to the Governor for signature.**

**Senate also concurred (46-0) with House version of SB 30, Student school information.** It requires the Department of Education to report the number of students in each school corporation that are exercising choice by attending a charter school, another public school outside the corporation or a school using the choice scholarship (voucher).

**On a vote of 38-10 the Senate concurred with House version of SB 423, Sanctuary policies and postsecondary educational institutions.** The bill requires universities to comply with law enforcement requests regarding immigration. The bill added the universities to existing law regarding other local governmental entities. **It now goes to Governor for signature.**

**Conference committee for HB 1004, Prekindergarten education, met on Wednesday to hear testimony** about the two different versions of the bill. **Most testimony was in favor of the House version** in part because it provided for a larger expansion of the pilot. **Some objected to the connection to the school voucher for kindergarten in the House version.** Of course, ICC spoke in favor of this connection; this will be a difficult aspect to retain. Another point of disagreement was the addition of an online pre-K program added in the Senate. The committee recessed in order to talk among themselves about a compromise. **This may come down to one of the last bills agreed upon as it also has budget implications.**

**The only requirement of the General Assembly is to establish a biennial budget.** A conference committee convened to discuss the differences between the House and Senate budgets. **Of particular interest for ICC was the difference between the versions regarding the Scholarship Tax Credit amount.** The House provided for an increase of \$3 Million to maximum of \$12.5 M and allowed a percentage increase in the second year of the biennium. The Senate kept the second year at the same total of \$12.5M. **Since the cap was reached with the**

**first 6 months of the fiscal year this year, we believe it is important to increase it in order to reach more students. Also, the Senate separated out the allocation for the choice scholarship (voucher) rather than keeping it as part of the total budget for K -12 education. We believe that all budgeted amounts for tuition support (what the budget calls payments to public schools for students) should be in one allocation that includes public, charter and choice students. ICC and others asked that the House version be adopted.**

**Senator James Merritt (R – Indianapolis) concurred on SB 154. SB 154 updates the asset limitations for SNAP (food stamps) eligibility by increasing the savings exempted to \$5,000 and adding prepaid funeral and burial expenses. The Senate is expected to pass the bill next week.**

**Senator Travis Holdman (R – Markle) concurred on SB 246, Child neglect defense and it passed 47 - 3. The bill now provides for the safe baby device to be installed at hospitals and also granted that the two located in fire stations would be allowed to continue. In addition to the anonymity for surrender of the infant, the program provides a help line offering assistance to struggling parents. The next step is up to the Governor.**

**Representative John Bartlett (D – Indianapolis) has concurred on HB 1024, School prayer and it passed 74-7. The Senate removed the more difficult parts to implement by taking out the limited public forum provisions. HB 1024 provides that students may express religious beliefs at school or in class assignments. It primarily codifies case law that has developed over the past decades. Some still argued that it would create more lawsuits and arguments but most see it as an affirmation of religious rights. It now goes to Governor.**

**Representative Ed Clere's (R – New Albany) bill HB 1287, CHOICE program, passed the House on concurrence 81-0. HB 1287 takes the pilot program which is more person focused and allows it to be implemented statewide. CHOICE helps elderly and disabled persons to access community resources and helps with financial assistance to enable these individuals to remain in their homes and with family. The bill now goes to the Governor for signature.**

In addition to the Update, you can obtain more detailed information regarding the bills, as well as detailed information about the legislative process and the Indiana General Assembly by clicking [here](#). You can also access the archived I-CAN Updates, ICC positions and other background information at the ICC website [www.indianacc.org](http://www.indianacc.org)