



# I-CANUpdate

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## Indiana · Catholic · Action · Network

February 9, 2017

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS (1967-2017)

**HB 1004, Pre-kindergarten education, passed the House 61 -34.** The bill provides for an expansion of the Pre-K pilot program to 5 more counties. The program provides scholarships for preschool opportunities for low income families. HB 1004 also enables these same families, if they choose, the opportunity for a school choice scholarship in kindergarten. **The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration. ICC supports the bill. The Senate version of the Pre-K program, SB 276 remains in Senate Education Committee.**

**HB 1287, Choice and Community Living pilot program,** authored by Representative Ed Clere (R – New Albany), **passed the House 95 – 0.** The bill **now moves to the Senate** for consideration. HB 1287 expands the pilot program statewide and it modernizes the program by further helping elderly and disabled persons stay in their homes and meet their needs at a lower cost while providing dignity and support to the individuals. **ICC supports the bill.**

**SB 9, SNAP and drug convictions, was not called for third reading** this week. **ICC supports the bill.** If you haven't contacted your Senator, please do so and ask them to support SB 9. [Take Action Now.](#)

**HB 1128, Informed consent requirements for abortion drugs,** authored by Representative Ron Bacon (R – Chandler), **was heard in the House Public Policy Committee.** The bill **requires that women taking RU 486 would be informed that there is a possibility that the abortion may be arrested or reversed and this information would be provided to each woman upon taking this drug.** This is a relatively new development and has been successful in recent years in at least 300 instances. The committee heard testimony from a mother who now has a healthy 17 month old child. Several doctors testified about its success also. However, abortion providers countered that it has not been scientifically proven and therefore should not be required.

In addition, **several amendments were added regarding abortion facilities and reporting to the Department of Health.** Currently, abortion facilities for chemical or medical abortion come under the same requirements as surgical facilities. The amendment would establish separate licensure and facility requirements for each facility. Another amendment would codify abortion reports provided to the Department of Health by abortion providers, ensuring that providers are following the law. And a third amendment would require that hospital emergency departments report complications from abortions. **ICC supports the bill and amendments. The committee will vote next week on the bill.**

**SB 467. Public safety funding**, authored by Senator James Buck (R – Kokomo), **was heard in the Senate Local Government Committee.** The **bill would change how fire and police services are paid for.** Instead of paying through property taxes, **all properties, including exempt properties such as churches and other ministries, would be assessed fees for these services.** The bill would authorize local units of government to make this determination based on a variety of factors; also, it allows local government to exempt properties from public safety assessment. **The bill met with much opposition** from many pastors and also several organizations, including hospitals, universities and other non-profit organizations such as United Way. **ICC also opposed the bill.** The potential fees would increase costs and reduce the amount available for ministries in parishes and other agencies. After hearing from pastors, who see this as a tax on the Church, **Senator Buck held the bill without a vote or discussion from the committee.** The **bill is still eligible for consideration, however, after the hearing, it is unlikely** to be brought up again this session. **A similar bill in the House is not expected to be heard in committee.**

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)