



# I-CANUpdate

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March 23, 2017

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS (1967-2017)

**Senate Education Committee passed (8-2) HB 1024, Prayer in schools**, authored by Representative John Bartlett (D - Indianapolis), **after amending it** to exclude the school corporation's requirement to develop policies regarding the establishment of a limited public forum for religious speech and policies regarding accommodations for those who wish to be excused from student religious speech. **The bill still codifies case law** regarding student religious expression in assignments and other student led activities before or after school. An amendment to require comparative religion class was defeated. **The bill moves to Senate for second and third reading next week. ICC supports the bill as amended.**

**Although the payday lending bill died in committee last month, industry lobbyists attempted to insert language in SB 283, Pyramid promotional schemes, during its hearing in House Judiciary Committee on Monday.** The language would allow payday lenders and others to charge a daily fee on small installment loans. The fee charge would amount to 144% of the balance of the loan and this would be on top of the regulated interest rate of 25%. The effect would be approximately 170% APR. **The proponents asked the committee to hold the bill when they discovered that our alliance was prepared to challenge it during the hearing.** However, **the amendment will not be considered next week.** With the help of many we were able to convince committee members that the amendment would cause harm to the consumer credit law for all and that the fee charge would amount to usury. **Many committee members told the Committee Chairman that they would not support it.**

**House Public Policy Committee heard SB 404, Abortion, child abuse and human trafficking**, authored by Senator Erin Houchin (R – Salem), and sponsored in the House by Representative Peggy Mayfield (R – Martinsville). The bill **affirms parental rights by notifying them if a judicial bypass is sought by a minor** and allowing them to present information to the judge before a decision is rendered. In addressing the trafficking and child abuse aspects of the bill, it **requires that an adult who takes a minor for an abortion to prove that he or she is the parent.** It also **raises the age for reporting child abuse to age 16** (age of consent in Indiana) and **provides for parents to seek damages should someone impersonate them** and take the child out of state for an abortion. **Many came to oppose the bill;** primarily focusing on parental notification, should a minor seek a judicial bypass for an abortion. **This was challenged as being unconstitutional** due to confidentiality and the limitations imposed due to notification. **The committee held the bill and will consider it and any amendments next week.**

**Senate will not hear HB 1128, Abortion matters**, which contained the abortion pill reversal information and provisions regarding abortion clinic regulations and reporting requirements. **It is possible that it or parts thereof could be amended into SB 404.** It is **also possible that the judicial bypass provision**, which seems to be the focus of the opponents, **could be amended out. With this provision included** it is certain that **should it become law, would be challenged in court. SB 404** will be the **only abortion related bill for the session** and therefore it will be the subject of much discussion in the coming days.

**Senate Appropriations Committee passed (9 – 1) HB 1004, Pre-kindergarten education; it was reassigned** due to fiscal allocation in the bill.

**House Family, Children and Human Affairs Committee will vote on SB 154, Asset limitation for SNAP, next Wednesday.** Following discussions with members; the **sponsor**, Representative Julie Olthoff (R – Crown Point), **will offer her amendment** that reduces the asset limit to \$5,000 (from \$10,000) and only allows prepaid funeral and burial expenses for exemption. **It is expected to pass committee.** Also **SB 9, SNAP and drug convictions, will be heard on Wednesday.** SB 9 removes the ban on SNAP benefits. **ICC supports both bills.**

**SB 423, Sanctuary policies and postsecondary educational institutions, will be heard in House Judiciary Committee on Monday.** An **amendment will be proposed** to add these institutions to existing law that requires cooperation with Federal immigration officials and prohibits policies to the contrary. The amendment accomplishes the author's purpose without adding another statute to code. **ICC believes the bill is unnecessary** as no university has declared such policies. However, the amendment removes language and de-escalates the issue and is a better approach than the initial bill.

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)