



February 25, 2016

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

This was the last week for committee meetings; hence, many bills moving. The House has given itself one more day on Monday for last minute changes or additional bills to move to the floor. Floor action will be the focus next week. All bills must clear the second chamber by next Thursday. Conference committee will follow the following week. Leadership intends to end the session on Thursday, March 10. The final day by statute is March 14.

HB 1337, Abortion, passed 6 -3 in Senate Health Committee on Wednesday. As expected, **it was amended** to simplify the paperwork for transit of the fetal remains for burial or cremation. Because SB 313 did not get a hearing in the House the committee amended it into HB 1337. SB 313 prohibits abortion based on disability or sex or race of the baby. Abortionist would face criminal charges if they knowingly abort for these reasons. SB 313 also provides hospice information to mothers faced with a lethal fetal anomaly.

SB 313 passed the Senate last month 35-14; we expect HB 1337 to pass the Senate also. HB 1337 requires fetal remains from an abortion or miscarriage to be buried or cremated; it also requires the ultra sound to be conducted at the time of informed consent and not before the abortion; also it ensures that abortionist update back-up doctor information annually and that it be provided to the hospitals by the State Department of Health. **HB 1337 must pass the Senate by next Wednesday.** It will then be **up to the House to accept the changes, or if not, it could go to conference committee** to work out a compromise. **ICC supports the bill as amended.**

HB 1064, Terminating the parent child relationship, passed unanimously in Senate Judiciary Committee. HB 1064 allows a parent who is the victim of rape from which a child was conceived to file a petition to terminate the parent-child relationship between the child and the alleged perpetrator of the act of rape. The court must find by clear and convincing evidence that a rape occurred. **The bill passed the House 93-0 and we expect it to pass the Senate.** Ordinarily, the Catholic Church is in favor of keeping families intact. But in the case of a child conceived during a violent crime, there is no intact family. House Bill 1064 will provide needed protection to women who are the victims of rape and their children, **ICC supports HB 1064.**

Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee heard HB 1340, Long term small loans, on Thursday. The bill as it came from the House was a study committee regarding the payday lending industry. Some wanted to amend the bill to provide an expansion of the industry to lend installment loans up to \$1000. **The Catholic Conference and others were opposed to the amendment that would have allowed interest of 180% APR.** The committee rejected the amendment 6-2. **The bill then passed as a study committee. ICC supports the study of the industry and its impact on the people of Indiana.**

Senate Appropriations Committee amended HB 1002, Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship, substantially. The amended bill removes the provisions of offering scholarship to students who become teachers. Appropriations Chairman Luke Kenley (R-Noblesville) instead wants the Higher Ed Commission to study current scholarships available and what other states have done to address teacher shortage. Hence, it is a study committee. Because the bill was authored by Speaker Brian Bosma (R- Indianapolis), this bill has become a bargaining chip for other bills with which the Senate and House are in disagreement. **ICC supported the initial bill as a way to encourage high achievement students to become teachers.**

House Education passed SB 334, Choice Scholarships, 8 – 4 after amending it to include a provision dealing with confidentiality agreements of dismissed teachers. Schools would be required to provide information to another school which inquires about hiring this teacher. SB 334 now makes choice scholarships available during second semester and reduces administrative procedures. The amendment applies to all schools with employees. **ICC supports the amendment and the initial bill.** The bill now moves to Ways and Means Committee and will be heard on Monday.

SB 11, ABLE savings accounts for persons with a disability, passed House Ways and Means committee unanimously. The bill now moves to the floor where it is expected to pass. If no amendments are added on second reading, it should go to the Governor next week. SB 11 provides tax credits for contributions for the benefit of an eligible individual with a disability. **ICC supports the bill.**

Bills moved on the floor also:

SB 272, Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council, passed unanimously in the House. The bill was not altered by the House and now it will go to the Governor for approval or veto. **We expect approval.** SB 272 will authorize the Department of Health to assess the extent of Palliative Care programs in Indiana and support growth and expansion of them.

SB 325, Individual Development Accounts, passed the House unanimously; it too passed the House without amendments. It now goes to the Governor for signature or veto. The bill updates the program and allows additional uses of the funds and clarifies who is eligible for participation. **ICC supports the bill.**

In addition to the Update, one 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