



**March 3, 2016**

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

This week concludes the second phase of the legislative process. All bills had to pass the second chamber by Thursday, March 3. The final phase, conference committee, has begun and will conclude by next Thursday, March 10. Bills passing with amendments, with which the initial author disagrees, are referred to a conference committee consisting of 4 legislators, one from each caucus from each chamber. Provided a compromise agreement can be reached, the agreed upon language/committee report must then be voted upon and agreed to by each body again.

Many bills have passed without amendments; and in some cases the changes made were agreed to by the initial author and his or her caucus. Hence, while there are and will be several conference committees called, most bills are being agreed with and are moving for final disposition by the Governor.

**HB 1337, Abortion, passed the Senate 37 -13** after a long debate Tuesday afternoon and after **several attempts to weaken the bill** on second reading Monday. **All attempts were rebuffed.** As reported earlier, HB 1337 now includes SB 313. SB 313 prohibits abortion if the sole purpose is to abort due to the child's race, sex or disability. It also provides that prenatal hospice information is to be provided to mothers when the fetus is diagnosed with a lethal fetal anomaly. HB 1337 continues to provide that all fetal remains are to be treated with dignity by being cremation or buried. Other provisions include tightening of abortion informed consent law and requiring abortionist to update back up doctor information annually.

**Adding SB 313 to HB 1337 now requires the House to once again vote on the bill** in a concurrence vote or to take the bill to conference committee to find agreement that the House will approve. A conference committee report would have to be voted upon by both chambers. Abortion is an emotional issue as was illustrated by the debate in the Senate. Including SB 313 with HB 1337 will make it more difficult to pass the House. **ICC is supportive** of HB 1337 as it passed the Senate. **Contact your state representative to encourage support of HB 1337.** You can locate/contact your representative by inserting your zip code under "Find Officials" located [here](#) and then your street address.

**SB 334, Various education matters, has changed since its inception.** The bill **passed the House 60-33** on Thursday. Initially, it was a bill dealing with choice scholarships, providing a second semester opportunity and reducing administrative procedure for parents and school officials. This still remains, but **now it includes provisions that govern confidentiality** agreements between teacher and schools and **requires school officials to disclose reports of child abuse** regarding teachers. An **added provision requires all non-public schools to implement a policy regarding background checks** for all teacher applicants. (Catholic schools already do this.) Finally, **it urges the Legislative Council** to assign to the appropriate

study committee the following topics: (1) Ways to reduce school sexual misconduct violations and methods of improving the reporting requirements of sexual misconduct violations in schools. (2) The effect of the time at which students start the school day. On second reading they added a provision to establish a fund to support teachers in acquiring necessary university credits to teach dual credit courses. This bill **passed the House** earlier this year **but it was changed** to a study committee in the Senate. Hence, **this is an attempt to keep the issue alive** for conference committee. **ICC supports the bill.**

**HB 1064, Terminating parental rights, passed the Senate 50-0.** It passed without amendments and hence will go to the Governor for signature or veto. **We expect the bill to be signed.**

**HB 1340, Long term small loans, passed the Senate 49-1.** The bill, as we hoped, only **provides for a study committee** dealing with the payday loan industry and whether to expand its loan amounts and terms. The study committee will provide an opportunity to also discuss the industry itself and its impact on persons and the economy.

**HB 1002, now renamed, Commission for Higher Education scholarship review and report, passed the Senate 50-0.** As reported, the bill **drops the educator scholarship program** proposed by Speaker Bosma; it **now asks for research regarding effectiveness of these types of scholarships.** Because this is a high profile bill, **expect this to go to conference committee next week.** It will be among the bills used for leverage regarding other differences between the Senate and House versions on several bills.

**SB 11, ABLE saving accounts for persons with a disability, passed the House 95-0.** The House **added a technical amendment** dealing with Medicaid and therefore the **bill/addition has to be concurred with** by the Senate before it can be sent to the Governor. A concurrence vote or a conference committee must agree by Thursday, March 10. It is **expected that the bill will be approved** by the deadline. **ICC supports the bill;** it provides tax credit for gifts to establish funds that assist individuals with disabilities.

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](http://www.indianacc.org)