



February 1, 2018

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

The session is nearing the half way mark. All bills must clear third reading on Monday in the House and by Tuesday in the Senate.

SB 340, Regulation of abortion, passed the Senate 38 -11. The bill now moves to the House for consideration. The bill **updates Indiana's abortion law**, requiring annual inspection of abortion clinics and reporting of abortion complications treated at hospitals. Indiana abortion law has helped to reduce the number of abortions and abortion providers. Adding these regulations will aid the effort to further reduce abortions in Indiana. We expect the bill to be heard in the coming weeks in House Public Policy Committee. **ICC supports the bill.**

SB 11, Eligibility for SNAP, passed the Senate 41 – 8. The bill now moves to the House for consideration during February. SB 11 will allow persons who after returning from prison for drug offenses and who fulfill probationary requirements would be eligible for SNAP benefits. We expect the bill to be heard in House Family, Children and Human Affairs Committee in the coming weeks. **ICC supports the bill.**

SB 65, Instruction on human sexuality, passed the Senate 37 – 12. SB 65 requires that materials being used in sex education must be provided to parents for inspection and **parents must give permission** before instruction is given. The bill will be **assigned to House Education Committee.** **ICC supports the bill.**

HB 1319, Small loans and unsecured consumer installment loans, passed the House 53 -41. **ICC opposed the bill** due to its support of an industry that charges egregious fees and interest and takes advantage of low income families. HB 1319 would allow fees that amount to 160 – 220% interest on loans from \$605 to 1500 for 3 to 12 months. Deliberately taking advantage of people due to ignorance or circumstances by raising prices is unjust and violates the seventh commandment. **The bill now moves to the Senate where ICC will again work to stop this legislation. We appreciate all who contacted** their State Representative about this bill. More calls and contacts will be needed in the coming weeks.

SB 205 School Choice Scholarships, passed the Senate Education Committee without opposition and was **reassigned to Senate Appropriations Committee due to fiscal aspects.** However, Chairman Senator Ryan Mishler (R – Bremen), **did not give it a hearing and therefore the bill is dead for this year.** The bill **would have allowed a student** who transfers to another school that accepts choice scholarships **to use the value of the scholarship that remains for that school year.** Currently, the value is returned to the State. **ICC supported the bill.**

SB 203, Crimes resulting in death of a fetus, passed Senate 42 -6. The bill now moves to the House for consideration. SB 203 allows a prosecutor to charge a felony if the fetus is killed while injuring or killing the mother. **ICC supports the bill** as it recognizes the life of the fetus in any stage of development.

Senate Republican caucus did not reach consensus regarding the **hate crimes bill, SB 418**, and therefore the **bill was not voted on in committee**. In addition, the Democrat caucus was split; some wanted a different bill with higher penalties. **Because it did not move out of committee, the bill is dead for the session.** There will **likely be attempts to add the language into bills during the next phase** of the session but it is **doubtful the topic will get approval this session.**

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