



March 15, 2018

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

2018 General Assembly ended late yesterday.

As reported last week, **SB 11, Eligibility for SNAP, was added to HB 1317** in the Senate. The **House dissented** due to provisions regarding drug pricing; the issue was resolved in conference committee. **The conference report for HB 1317 passed the House, 95 – 3 and passed the Senate 36-13.** Drug offenders, after release from prison and who maintain parole requirements, will now be eligible for SNAP benefits, provided they meet SNAP criteria. It has taken several years to get this issue passed. **The Governor is expected to sign the bill** which contains many other health related issues.

Due to drafting error **SB 419 was referred to a conference committee** to better achieve the goal of **licensing for DACA individuals. The conference report was accepted by the House and Senate, 80-7 and 39-8 respectively.** In addition to restricting licensing to the state (no local licensing), it provides eligibility for licensing to individuals with DACA authorization. **The Governor is expected to sign the bill.**

**HB 1007, Expanding mental health access,** was **referred to conference committee** to add a provision of another House bill. It provides a second chance for workers who failed a drug test. **The conference committee report passed unanimously in both chambers** on Wednesday. **The Governor is expected to sign the bill.**

As expected, the **Senate dissented on SB 65, Instruction on human sexuality.** Senator Dennis Kruse (R – Auburn) developed two alternative conference reports. Both provide that parents have to “opt-in” their child for the instruction. **However, he could not get agreement from the other caucuses and then concurred with the House version. The bill passed the Senate 41 -8.** It provides two notices being sent to the parents for them to opt-in or opt-out. If no response from either notice/request, the student would remain in the class. The bill provides better and more complete information regarding materials and class instruction than presently being done. **ICC supports the bill as it enhances parental responsibility and involvement.**

**Conference committee report HB 1001 passed both bodies without dissent.** It provides supplemental funding for K-12 education for this and next school years.

Another bill ICC followed dealt with guns being allowed on school property when shared with a church. **SB 33** passed the Senate and it passed a House committee **but did not pass second reading** due to multiple amendments, attempting to either expand or further restrict times and places that persons could carry guns while at a church with a school. The issue was raised again during conference committee; another bill, **HB 1214, was stripped of its content** to insert this issue along with another bill dealing with gun permits. **The conference committee could not come to agreement** regarding elimination of gun permit fees or the issue regarding allowing guns at churches with schools. **It died as the session ended. ICC did not have a position** regarding gun permits **but did have concerns** regarding carrying guns on school property. Both topics are **likely to return next 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](http://www.indianacc.org)