



January 18, 2018

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

Committees have been very busy and will be next week as well. **Bills must clear committee by January 30 in the House and February 1 in the Senate. All bills must clear each body by the first week of February.**

SB 123, Newborn safety devices at fire departments, passed the Senate 47 -0. The bill now moves to the House for consideration in February. The bill allows fire stations to install and monitor the newborn devices should a parent to surrender the child within 30 days following birth if unable to care for the child. **ICC support the bill** as the devices have saved lives and are adequately designed to properly notify safety personnel and properly care for the child to ensure that someone will provide assistance in a timely manner.

SB 11, Eligibility for SNAP, will be **eligible for third reading next week.**

HB 1001, Education funding, passed the House 96 – 0 on Thursday. SB 189 dealing with same topic is expected to pass the Senate next week. Both bills provide additional funding for public schools and school scholarships due to increased student enrollment. **ICC supports the bills.**

HB 1203, Qualified egg banks, authored by Representative Sean Eberhart (R – Shelbyville), **was heard and passed 10-2 in House Public Health Committee on Wednesday. The bill allows fertility clinics to import ova from out of state.** Current law restricts collection of ova from women who utilize fertility clinics or from residents of Indiana. The bill **will allow clinics to transfer ova from clinics out of state** in order to select race or other characteristics to match client requests. **ICC opposes the bill** as it facilitates in vitro fertilization and further commodification of human beings. **This bill greatly increases the practice and sources for commodifying human beings** by expanding the amount of sources whereby gametes are obtained. **The bill now moves to House for consideration.**

SB 65, Instruction on human sexuality, authored by Senator Dennis Kruse (R – Auburn), **was heard in Senate Education Committee, a vote will be taken next week. SB 65 requires school corporations to provide parents the materials used** in connection with instruction on human sexuality and **obtain parent permission** before providing instruction. **ICC supports the bill.** Parents have the responsibility to educate their children and a particular responsibility in the area of sexual education. Children should be taught the meaning of sexuality and it is important that they learn to appreciate the human and moral values connected with it. Parents have an obligation to inquire about the methods used for sexual education in order to verify that such an important and delicate topic is dealt with properly.

Expected committee action next week:

Representative Woody Burton (R – Whiteland), Chair of House Financial Institutions Committee, **is expected to announce on Monday if he will hear HB 1319, dealing with payday industry.** If he does, the bill will be amended to allow payday lenders the opportunity to make installment loans between \$550 - \$1500 with interest and fees that will exceed 200%. **ICC is opposed to the bill.**

SB 340, Abortion regulation, authored by Senator Travis Holdman (R – Markle), **is expected to be heard in Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday.** The bill updates Indiana law regarding annual inspections of abortion clinics and licensing requirements. In addition, due to increase of chemical abortions and often resulting complications, hospital emergency rooms will be asked to provide reports of these complications. **ICC supports the bill** as it seeks to protect women and promote the common good.

SB 203, Crimes resulting in loss of a fetus, authored by Senator Aaron Freeman (R – Indianapolis), **provides that crimes of murder and manslaughter and feticide may be committed against a fetus at any stage of development.** Current Indiana law applies these crimes once the fetus reaches viability. **Senate Committee on Corrections and Criminal Code will hear SB 203 on Tuesday. ICC supports the bill,** as life begins at conception.

SB 418, Bias motivated crimes, authored by Senator C. Susan Glick (R – LaGrange), **will be heard in Senate Corrections and Criminal Code Committee on Tuesday.** SB 418 is similar to the bill filed last year. **The bill allows judges to consider bias motivation as an aggravating circumstance** (for purposes of imposing a criminal sentence) if the crime was committed with the intent to harm or intimidate an individual because of perceived or actual characteristics of the individual. **The biases include race, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity.** The bill **does not change the civil rights law. ICC is monitoring the bill** and is neutral as the bill stands now.

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