



January 25, 2018

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

The first stage of the legislative session is nearing the end. **Bills must pass Senate committees by Thursday February 1; House committees have until Tuesday, January 30.** All bills will have to pass from the house of origin the first week of February.

SB 11, Eligibility for SNAP, was taken off third reading and assigned to Senate Appropriations this week. Staff flagged the bill as **having a fiscal cost and therefore it must be approved by Appropriations.** There is some uncertainty and therefore Appropriations Committee delayed the implementation for one year (the next budget) before passing it; **the bill will be considered in the Senate next week.** (All costs for SNAP are paid by Federal money.) **ICC supports the bill.**

HB 1203, Qualified egg banks, passed the House 88 – 8. HB 1203 allows fertility clinics to import human ova from throughout the U.S. to be used to create embryos. Expanding the sources of gametes greatly increases the practice and sources for commodifying human beings. **ICC opposes the bill. The bill now moves to Senate for consideration next month.**

SB 203, Crimes resulting in death of a fetus, passed Senate Corrections and Criminal Code Committee 8 -1. SB 203 would allow a charge against a person who harms the mother and also kills the unborn child (at any stage of development) to be charged with murder and manslaughter. The bill exempts abortions. **ICC supports the bill** as it recognizes the life of unborn child and values her/him the same as it does the life of the mother.

SB 65, Instruction on human sexuality, passed Senate Education Committee 9 – 1. The bill requires that parents must be provided the materials used in sex education and **give consent** for their child to take part in the class prior to instruction. The bill will be voted on by the Senate next week. **ICC supports the bill.**

SB 205, School choice scholarships, authored by Senator Aaron Freeman (R – Indianapolis), passed the Senate Education Committee unanimously on Wednesday. Under current law, students with choice scholarships lose the remaining scholarship funds if they transfer schools during the school year. SB 205 would allow the student to use the remaining scholarship funds at the new school. There is **no additional cost for the state;** there will be only some additional administrative work. **ICC supports the bill.**

House passed a resolution requesting that a special committee study the issue of medical marijuana this summer and fall

HB 1319, Small loans and unsecured installment loans, authored by Representative Martin Carbaugh (R – Fort Wayne) and Representative Woody Burton (R – Whiteland) , **was heard in House Financial Institutions Committee on Wednesday**. The committee **passed the bill 8 -5**. HB 1319 was **amended to only deal with expansion of payday lending industry**. It will allow payday lenders to loan amounts from \$605 to \$1500 for 3 months to 12 months duration. This is a new product for payday lenders who under current law are now limited to less than \$605 and only up to 20% of one's paycheck. The new product, depending on the amount and length of loan, the fees would range from 160% to 200% APR. **The current payday loans continue also**. Committee members supporting the bill cite the need for these loans among low income families. There are some provisions that limit the number of loans, and the amount borrowed depends on borrower's income.

However, **ICC is opposed to the bill** as it takes advantage of person with limited income and often limited financial knowledge and awareness of how fees and interest impact their ability to repay the loan. [Contact your representative](#) asking that they oppose HB 1319.

SB 340, Regulation of abortion, heard in Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday, passed 6 – 1. SB 340 **updates Indiana law** by requiring annual inspections of abortion clinics and reporting of complications following abortions that result in emergency room visits. More and more women use drugs to induce abortion; many of the drugs are coming from internet/overseas purchases. Drug induced abortions often result in serious medical complications. The reporting of these may help in further policy changes that are needed. **ICC supports the bill** as a way to reduce abortions and as a matter of public health and safety.

Senate Corrections and Criminal Code Committee heard lengthy testimony regarding SB 418, Bias crimes, on Tuesday. However, time did not permit the consideration of amendments or committee discussion. **The bill will be considered at the meeting on Tuesday, January 30**.

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