

WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

CAPITOL UPDATE

March 30, 2007

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State Budget

The Joint Finance Committee is continuing its deliberations on the Governor's budget. At this point it appears that the Senate and Assembly members have very different views as to how the budget should be modified. Parish and diocesan members of the WCC legislative network are urged to keep contacting legislators in support of WCC budget priorities.

Job Discrimination Against Reformed Felons

The WCC [testified](#) this week before the Assembly Education Committee in opposition to [AB 30](#), which would permit an educational agency to refuse to hire or to immediately fire an unpardoned felon.

Darfur Divestment

The genocide practiced by the Sudanese government in that country's Darfur region has prompted the WCC and other religious groups, including the Milwaukee Jewish Council, to support [SB 57](#). The bill, which has bi-partisan support, directs the State Investment Board not to invest in companies that has contracts with, or provides services to, the government of Sudan. See the WCC [testimony](#).

Death Penalty

Legislation to restore the death penalty in Wisconsin was introduced this week. [SB 115](#) allows courts to impose the death penalty for murders that are "vicious." In a [press release](#) issued on March 28, the WCC reaffirmed its stance that the death penalty is not necessary to keep Wisconsin safe, and the legislature should rebuff efforts to restore it.

New Bills of Interest

[AB 4 Payday Loans](#) (Schneider) Limiting finance charges for payday loans. *To Financial Institutions.*

[AB-124](#) **Darfur Divestment** (Kessler) Prohibits State Investment Board from making certain investments relating to Sudan. *To Financial Institutions.*

[AB-165](#) **4-K Transportation** (Friske) Permits school boards to not transport four-year-old kindergarten pupils attending private schools. *To Education Reform.*

[SB 57](#) **Darfur Divestment** (Harsdorf) Prohibits State Investment Board from making certain investments relating to Sudan. *To Veterans and Military Affairs, Biotechnology and Financial Institutions.*

[SB-114](#) **Long-Term Care Partnership** (Roessler) Requires the Department of Health and Family Services to submit an amendment for the state's Medical Assistance plan to federal administrators that satisfies the requirements of the State Long-Term Care Partnership Program under federal law. *To Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy.*

[SB 115](#) **Death Penalty** (Lasee) Reinstates death penalty for life in prison for a "vicious" first-degree intentional homicide. *To Ethics Reform and Government Operation.*

[SJR 2](#) **Amends the Wisconsin Constitution to Prohibit Discrimination** A constitutional amendment to provide that all persons are guaranteed equal protection of the laws. Requires the government to protect and secure these equal rights. *To Judiciary and Corrections.*

[SJR-29](#) **Undocumented Residents** (Lasee) Constitutional amendment prohibiting release of illegal residents prior to trial on a felony. *To Judiciary and Corrections.*

Web Sites of Interest

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/waml>

- Who are my legislators

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/leginfo.html>

- 2007-08 Session Schedule
- Weekly Schedule of Committee Activities
- Senate and Assembly Daily Floor Calendar

Capitol Update is a periodic e-mail on legislative issues from the Wisconsin Catholic Conference. To "subscribe" or "unsubscribe" please send a request to office@wisconsincatholic.org.

Wisconsin Catholic Conference
131 W. Wilson St., Suite 1105
Madison, WI 53703
608/257-0004
www.wisconsincatholic.org