

WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

CAPITOL UPDATE

April 17, 2009

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Finance Committee Begins Executive Sessions on Budget

The Joint Committee on Finance begins several weeks of executive sessions on the 2009-11 state budget today. It is during these sessions that the 16 committee members vote to retain, remove, or amend the Governor's budget recommendations. WCC encourages citizens to continue contacting committee members in support of the WCC's budget [recommendations](#).

WCC Testifies on Budget Issues Related to Children and Families

On April 15, the Senate Committee on Children and Families and Workforce Development heard testimony on budget issues related to programs in the Department of Children and Families. WCC was among those providing [testimony](#). The testimony builds on the testimony to the Finance Committee and includes insights about proposed changes to the W-2 program obtained from Catholic Charities and St. Vincent de Paul leaders. (NOTE: Although the budget bill is in the Joint Committee on Finance, sometimes a separate standing committee will hold an informational hearing on parts of the budget.)

Upcoming Hearings of Interest

(N.B. Only bills of interest are flagged. In most cases, committees will be considering other bills as well.)

Special Committee on Justice Reinvestment Initiative Oversight

10am, Wed., Apr. 22, 412 E.

Presentations by the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center on policy options and draft legislation in response to CSG's final analyses of Wisconsin's correctional system.

Discussion of committee assignment.

Senate Health, Health Insurance, Privacy, Property Tax Relief & Revenue

10 am, Wed., Apr. 22, 411 S.

[SB-71](#). **Health Plans** (Vinehout) Changes affecting pre-existing condition exclusions, modifications at renewal; establishes standard application for health benefit plans.

[SB-72](#). **Health Plans** (Vinehout) Portability under group health benefit plans; independent review of insurance policy rescissions; pre-existing exclusion denials.

Joint Committee on Audit

11am, Wed., Apr. 29, 411 S.

Audit Report 09-4: Inmate Mental Health Care. Department of Corrections and Department of Health Services. *Note: Interested persons may listen to a live broadcast of the audio portion of the hearing on the internet while the Committee is in session. It can be accessed at the Legislative Audit Bureau's website by clicking the Legislative Audit Committee link, or by visiting <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lab/JCAHearing.htm>.*

New Bills of Interest

[AB-195](#). **Volunteer Health Providers** (Hilgenberg) Expands list of persons eligible for the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program. To Public Health.

[SB-149](#). **Juvenile Court** (Legislative Council) Examination of the juvenile in a proceeding for waiver of juvenile court jurisdiction. To Judiciary.

[SB-150](#). **Juvenile Waivers** (Legislative Council) Criteria for waiver of adult criminal court jurisdiction over a juvenile and transfer of the case to juvenile court. To Judiciary.

[SB-151](#). **Juvenile Corrections** (Legislative Council) Funding to counties to cover increases in juvenile corrections costs. To Judiciary.

[SB-152](#). **Juvenile Waivers** (Legislative Council) Creates a rebuttable presumption of retaining juvenile court jurisdiction in waiver proceedings involving a first offender. To Judiciary.

[SB-153](#). **Juvenile Waivers** (Legislative Council) Petitions for waiver of juvenile court jurisdiction and criteria for that waiver. To Judiciary.

[SB-154](#). **School Safety** (Legislative Council) School safety plans, pupil records and school bullying. To Education.

[AB-209](#). **County Assistance** (Seidel) Authorizes a county to provide assistance to a non-profit organization providing assistance to certain individuals. To Urban & Local Affairs.

Web Sites of Interest

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

- Who are my legislators

[Directory of Senate Members](#)

[Directory of Assembly Members](#)

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

- 2009-10 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.

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