

Capitol Update

June 10, 2011

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Joint Finance Committee Completes Work on State Budget

The Joint Finance Committee has completed its work on the state budget and advanced the bills on a party-line vote of 12-4. The Assembly is expected to vote on the budget on Tuesday, June 14, and the Senate may follow suit on Thursday. The WCC will send out a summary of the Committee's changes next week.

WCC Opposes Immigration Bill

Assembly Representative Don Pridemore (R-Hartford) has introduced [Assembly Bill 173](#), which would require law enforcement to act when they suspect a law has been broken and the perpetrator may be here illegally. The proposed bill would require the following:

1. Those suspected, arrested, or charged with a crime would have to show a legal document demonstrating that they are legally in Wisconsin.
2. They could be held in jail for up to 48 hours.
3. If they cannot prove legal presence in that time, they would be turned over to federal immigration authorities.
4. Citizens could sue municipalities and counties for failure to enforce this state law.
5. Communities could be fined \$500 a day for noncompliance.
6. No local government could prevent enforcement of this law by prohibiting public employees from: a) inquiring whether an individual seeking or receiving public services has satisfactory immigration status; and b) notifying the federal government of the presence of illegal aliens.

To date, no public hearing has been scheduled. The WCC opposes the bill.

WCC Testifies on Felon Bias Bill

The WCC presented [testimony](#) for information this week on [Senate Bill 86](#) (Sen. Alberta Darling, R-River Hills), which would permit public and private schools to refuse to employ or to terminate from employment an unpardoned felon. The WCC urged the committee to modify the bill to ensure that children are protected and that willing ex-offenders have the opportunity to reintegrate into society. The Committee passed the bill, with no amendments, on a vote of 4-1. The bill is now available for a floor vote in the Senate.

New Bills of Interest

[AB-167](#). **SeniorCare** (Jorgensen) Requests waiver for prescription drug assistance for elderly program (SeniorCare). To Health.

[AB-172](#). **Wisconsin Works** (Knodl) Increases the reduction in Wisconsin Works benefits based on a positive drug test, paying the amount of the reduction to dependent children in the group. To Children and Families.

[AB-173](#). **Immigrants** (Pridemore) Requires determining the lawful presence of a person arrested for or charged with a crime or certain civil violations. To Homeland Security and State 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>

- 2011-12 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.

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