

Capitol Update

June 24, 2011

Contents Include:

1. Legislature Passes State Budget Bill
2. Conceal and Carry Bill Sent to Governor
3. USCCB Approves Statement Opposing Physician-Assisted Suicide
4. USCCB Releases Second Video in Defense of Marriage Initiative
5. New Bills of Interest

Legislature Passes State Budget Bill

Both houses of the Legislature last week passed the biennial state budget bill and Governor Walker is scheduled to sign it this Sunday in Green Bay. The WCC will send out a summary of the bill after it is signed into law.

Conceal and Carry Bill Sent to Governor

After significantly amending [Senate Bill 93](#), which was originally drafted as a “constitutional carry” proposal, both houses of the Legislature passed the bill, which now awaits the Governor’s signature. The Senate passed the bill on a bi-partisan vote of 25 to 8. The bi-partisan vote in the Assembly was 68 to 27 (2 paired). The amended bill requires background checks, permits, and firearms training, but does not grant exemptions to churches, hospitals, and other facilities where children and vulnerable persons are present.

USCCB Approves Statement Opposing Physician-Assisted Suicide

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) approved a policy statement opposing physician-assisted suicide at its Spring General Assembly in Seattle on June 16. The statement, *To Live Each Day with Dignity*, is available online at www.usccb.org/toliveeachday, along with fact sheets and articles on the issue, relevant Church documents, and prayers for use with those who are ill.

The statement speaks of the hardships and fears of patients facing terminal illness and the importance of life-affirming, palliative care. It argues that assisted suicide is not an addition to palliative care, but a poor substitute that can ultimately become an excuse for denying better medical care to seriously ill people, including those who never considered suicide an option. It concludes by advancing what Pope John Paul II called “the way of love and true mercy,” and

calls on Catholics to work with others to uphold the right of each person to live with dignity.

USCCB Releases Second Video in Defense of Marriage Initiative

The USCCB Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage has released the second of five videos on marriage as the union of one man and one woman. The new video, *Made for Life*, features real married couples reflecting on topics related to the gift of children, the indispensable place of fathers and mothers, and sexual difference.

Made for Life is part of the USCCB educational initiative *Marriage: Unique for a Reason*, which was launched in June 2010 with the release of the first video, *Made for Each Other*. The *Made for Life* DVD is accompanied by a Viewer's Guide and Resource Booklet for Priests, Deacons, Catechists, and Teachers. Materials are online at www.marriageuniqueforareason.org and are available for purchase through www.usccbpublishing.org.

New Bills of Interest

[SB-127](#). Sentencing (Harsdorf) Aggravating factors for a court to consider when sentencing persons. To Judiciary.

[SB-131](#). Carry Concealed / Straw Gun Purchases (Darling) Penalty for carrying a concealed weapon if prohibited from possessing a firearm, purchasing a firearm for a person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm. To Judiciary, Utilities, Commerce, and Government Operations.

[SB-134](#). Gun Purchases (Carpenter) Providing information to firearms dealers when purchasing a handgun; DOJ prosecution of violations of certain laws regulating firearms; receiving a stolen firearm; penalties. To Judiciary, Utilities, Commerce and Government Operations.

[AJR-46](#). Mandates (Jacque) Funding in bills placing requirements on local units of government. (1st Consideration). To Urban and Local Affairs.

[AB-183](#). Prevailing Wage (Williams) Applicability of prevailing wage law; thresholds for applicability; calculation of rate; treatment of volunteers, truck drivers, subjourneypersons, incidental work; submission to DWD of payroll records; inspection of records; remedies. To Jobs, Economy and Small Business.

AB-190. Carry Concealed / Straw Gun Purchases (Bies) Penalty for carrying a concealed weapon if prohibited from possessing a firearm, purchasing a firearm for a person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm. To Criminal Justice and Corrections.

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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