

Capitol Update

July 8, 2011

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Governor Signs Conceal and Carry Bill

Governor Walker today signed [Senate Bill 93](#) (Sen. Pam Galloway, R- Wausau), which requires Wisconsin's Department of Justice (DOJ) to issue permits to any state resident 21 years or older who is not a felon or is otherwise prohibited from carrying a concealed weapon, has cleared a background check, and has provided proof of having received firearms training. Permit holders must carry their permits and photo IDs or face a fine. They are allowed to carry loaded and uncased guns in their cars, in public parks and public buildings, and in establishments that serve alcohol (as long as they are not drinking). Private businesses, churches, daycares, etc., may post signs prohibiting entry with a weapon. Weapons will continue to be prohibited in law enforcement buildings, prisons, jails, courthouses, secure mental health facilities, schools and school grounds, and airports beyond security checkpoints. The bill also creates a database of permit holders, which cannot be made public.

The WCC had asked legislators to amend the bill so as to exempt buildings used for religious purposes and other facilities that house vulnerable populations. While the bill does not include this provision, it does require permits and training, which the WCC supports.

Most provisions of the bill will take effect in November. The WCC is assisting diocesan agencies in preparing educational materials on the new law and guidance on how to comply with its provisions. Watch future issues of the *Update* and diocesan papers for information as it becomes available.

U.S. Bishops and Catholic Relief Services Urge Support for Worlds' Poorest

In a July 5 letter to the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs, Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, chairman of the United States

Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on International Justice and Peace, and Ken Hackett, president of Catholic Relief Services, urged the Subcommittee not to make additional cuts to programs that "would be disproportionate and life-threatening to the world's poorest people."

At stake are a wide range of life-saving and dignity preserving activities such as assistance to poor farmers, orphans, and children; medicines and vaccines; famine relief; emergency health care, shelter, and reconstruction; peacekeeping; and support for migrants and refugees.

The letter also affirmed strong support for restoring the Mexico City Policy against funding groups that perform or promote abortion, and for denying funding to the U.N. Population Fund, which supports a program of coerced abortion and involuntary sterilization in China.

A copy of the letter is available at <http://www.usccb.org/comm/archives/2011/11-137.shtml>

Upcoming Hearings of Interest

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

Assembly Labor and Workforce Development/Senate Labor, Public Safety and Urban Affairs (joint hearing)

10:00am, Monday, July 11, 412 E

[AB-197](#). **UC Benefits** (Ballweg) Payment of extended unemployment benefits. To Labor and Workforce Development.

New Bills of Interest

[SB-137](#). **Illegal Immigrants** (Hansen) Makes companies hiring illegal immigrants ineligible for certain tax exemptions, governmental contracts, grants and loans. To Labor, Public Safety and Urban Affairs.

[SB-140](#). **Tax Checkoff** (Wanggaard) Individual income tax checkoff for contributions to elementary and secondary education, shared revenue and Medical Assistance. To Public Health, Human Services and Revenue.

[SB-145](#). **Gender Crimes** (Coggs) Creates a civil cause of action for acts of violence motivated by gender; makes crimes based on gender of victim subject to a penalty enhancer. To Judiciary.

[AB-193](#). **Tax Checkoff** (Bernier) Individual income tax checkoff for contributions to elementary and secondary education, shared revenue and Medical Assistance. To Ways and Means.

[AB-197](#). **UC Benefits** (Ballweg) Payment of extended unemployment benefits. To Labor and Workforce Development.

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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