

WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

CAPITOL UPDATE

September 11, 2009

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WCC Backs Curbing Payday Loans

In a [press release](#) issued earlier this week, the WCC asked Catholics and others to support legislation such as [Assembly Bill 392](#), which was introduced last week by Representative Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh). The proposal would prohibit payday lenders from assessing finance charges that exceed 36 percent per year, and would give the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) the authority to enforce the new regulations. Those who violate the regulations could be subject to fines, imprisonment, or both. Borrowers could also bring suit against violators to recover damages. The bill has not yet received a public hearing.

WCC Testifies in Support of Tax Credits for Educators

The WCC offered written [testimony](#) this week in support of [Assembly Bill 140](#), sponsored by Representative Kim Hixson (D-Whitewater), which would provide an individual income tax deduction for the educational expenses of elementary and secondary school teachers. The Committee took no action on the bill at the hearing.

Upcoming Hearings of Interest

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

Joint Committees on Children and Families and Workforce Development

9am, Wed., Sep. 16, 412-E

LRB 0150/3. Indian Child Welfare. This will be a joint public hearing of the Senate Committee on Children and Families and Workforce Development and the Assembly Committee on Children and Families.

Special Committee on Child Welfare Provider Rate Implementation

1pm, Wed., Sep. 23, 415-NW

Testimony relating to the current system for establishing child welfare provider rates and the proposal to modify the system. Discussion of committee assignment. If testimony is taken, it will be by invitation only.

New Bills of Interest

[SB-210](#). **Child Care** (Legislative Council) Children and their families who are involved in two or more systems of care. To Children & Families and Workforce Development.

[SB-211](#). **Child Abuse Grants** (Legislative Council) Child abuse and neglect prevention grants. To Children & Families.

[SB-212](#). **Notice to Relatives** (Legislative Council) Requires notice to relatives when a child is taken into custody and disclosure of information to relatives for the purpose of facilitating a relationship or placement. To Children & Families.

[SB-213](#). **Foreclosures** (Kreitlow) Notification of alternative dispute resolution in foreclosure actions. To Judiciary.

[SB-255](#). **Foreclosures** (Taylor) Notification of default and mediation regarding residential real property subject to foreclosure. To Judiciary.

[SB-271](#). **Bisphenol** (Lassa) Prohibits manufacture and sale at wholesale of certain baby bottles and cups for children containing bisphenol A; labeling requirements. To Small Business, Emergency Preparedness, Technical Colleges and Consumer Protection.

[SB-275](#). **Employment Discrimination** (Holperin) Prohibits employment discrimination based on credit history. To Labor, Elections & Urban Affairs.

[AB-160](#). **Foreclosures** (Young) Delays certain mortgage foreclosure actions. To Housing.

[AB-305](#). **Foreclosures** (Dexter) Notification of alternative dispute resolution in foreclosure actions. To Housing.

[AB-359](#). **Married Couples** (Pridemore) Creates a refundable individual income tax credit for certain married couples. To Children & Families.

[AB-392](#). **Pay Day Loans** (Hintz) Limits finance charges by licensed lenders. To Financial Institutions.

[AB-395](#). **State Public Defender** (Sherman) Criteria for determining indigency for purposes of representation by the State Public Defender. To Judiciary & Ethics.

[AB-405](#). **Bisphenol** (Roys) Prohibits manufacture and sale at wholesale of certain baby bottles and cups for children containing bisphenol A; labeling requirements. To Consumer Protection.

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.

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