

WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Capitol Update

March 23, 2012

Contents Include:

1. Legislature Adjourns Regular Session
2. Abortion Bills Pass Legislature
3. Cap on Family Care Program Lifted
4. Bill to Reform Sex Education Passes
5. Rent-to-Own Bill Fails to Pass Legislature
6. Special Needs Scholarship Program Bill Fails to Pass Legislature
7. New Bills of Interest

Legislature Adjourns Regular Session

The Senate and Assembly have adjourned for 2011-12. All bills that did not pass both houses are therefore dead. A summary of the session will appear in the next *Capitol Update*. As the Legislature now stands adjourned until January, the WCC will be issuing the *Capitol Update* less frequently.

Abortion Bills Pass Legislature

On March 13, the Assembly passed [Senate Bill 92](#), which bars health insurance providers that participate in a future state exchange from including elective abortions in their coverage, on a vote of 61-34. The WCC offered [testimony](#) in support.

On March 15, the Assembly concurred in [Senate Bill 306](#), which protects women from being coerced into having an abortion and prohibits “webcam” abortions, on a vote of 60-33. The WCC offered [testimony](#) in support. Both bills are expected to be signed by Governor Walker.

Cap on Family Care Program Lifted

On March 20, the Governor signed [2011 Wisconsin Act 127](#). This bill, which enjoyed strong bipartisan support, removes the enrollment cap on the Family Care program and other Wisconsin Medicaid community-based, long-term care programs. The WCC supported [Senate Bill 380](#), which was unanimously approved by the Senate and passed the Assembly by a vote of 87-6.

Bill to Reform Sex Education Passes

On March 14, on a vote of 60-34, the Assembly passed [Senate Bill 237](#), which reforms laws governing public school instruction in human growth and development. The WCC offered [testimony](#) in support of the bill, which Governor Walker is expected to sign.

Rent-to-Own Bill Fails to Pass Legislature

[Assembly Bill 582](#) would have exempted the rent-to-own industry from the Wisconsin Consumer Act. On March 15, it passed the Assembly but failed to advance to the Senate before the Legislature adjourned. The WCC presented [testimony](#) in opposition to the bill.

Special Needs Scholarship Bill Fails to Pass Legislature

Similarly, [Assembly Bill 110](#), which would have provided funds to special needs students to attend the school of their choice, passed the Assembly but the Senate adjourned before it could act on the bill. The WCC offered [testimony](#) in support of the bill.

New Bills of Interest

[SJR-73](#). **Cardinal T. Dolan** (Zipperer) Commending Timothy Michael Dolan on his elevation to the cardinalate.

[SB-507](#). **Child Abuse** (Grothman) Requires the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board to emphasize nonmarital parenthood as a contributing factor to child abuse and neglect. *To Public Health, Human Services, and Revenue.*

[SB-515](#). **Wisconsin Shares** (Cowles) Eligibility under Wisconsin Shares for a child care subsidy, for payment for child care services, and for certification as a family child care provider. *To Public Health, Human Services, and Revenue.*

[SB-532](#). **Birth** (Joint Legislative Council) Evidence-based home visitation program services for persons who are at risk for poor birth outcomes or of abusing or neglecting their children; designating race and ethnicity on birth certificates; requiring informed consent for performance of certain elective procedures prior to the full gestational term of a fetus. *To Health.*

[SB-536](#). **Child Pornography** (Wanggaard) Prosecution time limits for the offense of trafficking a child, possession of child pornography, termination of parental rights after committing the offense of trafficking a child, criminal procedure, crime victim compensation. *To Labor, Public Safety, and Urban Affairs.*

[AJR-135](#). **Religious Liberty** (Craig) Religious liberty and the right of conscience (first consideration). *To Judiciary and Ethics.*

[AR-20](#). **Catholic Schools** (Zepnick) Proclaims Catholic Schools Week. *To Rules.*

[AB-622](#). **Newborns** (Kleefisch) Requires pulse oximetry in newborns. *To Health.*

[AB-624](#). **Sex Offender** (Kleefisch) Representations depicting nude children and requiring sex offender registration for adults who commit the offense against a child who is under the age of 16. *To Criminal Justice and Corrections.*

[AB-628](#). **Bullying** (Bies) Provides a penalty for failure to report bullying in public schools. *To Education.*

[AB-633](#). **License Plates** (Jacque) Special distinguishing registration plates displaying the words Choose Life. *To Transportation.*

[AB-644](#). **Bullying** (Knilians) School bullying, and unlawful use of computer systems. *To Education.*

[AB-646](#). **Child Pornography** (Loudenbeck) Prosecution time limits for the offense of trafficking a child, possession of child pornography, termination of parental rights after committing the offense of trafficking a child, criminal procedure, crime victim compensation. *To Children and Families.*

[AB-693](#). **Birth** (Joint Legislative Council) Evidence-based home visitation program services for persons who are at risk for poor birth outcomes or of abusing or neglecting their children; designating race and ethnicity on birth certificates; requiring informed consent for performance of certain elective procedures prior to the full gestational term of a fetus. *To Children and Families.*

[AB 703](#). **Juvenile Justice** (Kessler) Relating to: the age at which a person who is alleged to have violated a criminal law, a civil law, or a municipal ordinance and who has not previously been adjudicated delinquent is subject to circuit court or municipal court rather than juvenile court jurisdiction. *To Criminal Justice and Corrections.*

[AB-711](#). **Choice Schools** (Krusick) Parental choice programs; the operation of, and insurance requirements related to, school buses and alternative methods of pupil transportation; and providing a penalty. *To Education.*

[AB-714](#). **Mandatory Reporters** (Krusick) Mandatory reporting of child abuse or neglect by professors, administrators, coaches, and other employees of a public, private, or tribal postsecondary educational institution. *To Education.*

[AB-736](#). **School** (Hulsey) School conference and activities leave. *To Education.*

[AB-748](#). **Student Testing** (Krusick) Reporting of student testing in public schools and in private schools participating in a parental choice program, a school assessment guide, licensure of teachers in private schools participating in a parental choice program, and evaluation of teachers and principals. *To Education.*

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.

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