

Capitol Update

April 29, 2011

Contents Include:

1. Joint Committee on Finance Begins Executive Sessions on State Budget
2. U.S. Bishops, Christian Leaders Call for “Circle of Protection” around Poor
3. Upcoming Hearings of Interest
4. New Bills of Interest

Joint Committee on Finance Begins Executive Sessions on State Budget

The 16-member Joint Committee on Finance (JCF) began several weeks of executive sessions on the 2011-13 state budget this week. The Committee will review and then vote to retain, remove, or amend the Governor’s budget recommendations. The Committee, which began by making minor changes to the budgets of smaller agencies, will meet again on Tuesday, May 3, at 11am. The agencies and position papers that will be reviewed each day can be found on this [website](#). WCC readers are encouraged to contact committee members in support of the WCC’s budget recommendations, as outlined in the WCC’s [Budget Issue Brief](#).

U.S. Bishops, Christian Leaders Call for “Circle of Protection” around Poor

A diverse coalition of Christian leaders, including U. S. Catholic bishops, the National Association of Evangelicals, Bread for the World, Salvation Army, Christian Churches Together in the USA, National Council of Churches, and other Evangelical and mainline Protestants, has called for a priority for the poor in the current federal budget process through a common statement, “A Circle of Protection.” In the statement, the religious leaders recognize the need to reduce future deficits, “but not at the expense of hungry and poor people.” The statement urges government leaders to explore other areas of the budget that can be cut to reduce deficits, create jobs, and spur economic growth, noting, “Decent jobs at decent wages are the best path out of poverty, and restoring growth is a powerful way to reduce deficits.”

The full statement and list of signatories can be found online at www.circleofprotection.us/index.html

Upcoming Hearings of Interest

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

Assembly Education

10am, Tuesday, May 3, 417 N

[AB-110](#). **Disabled Pupils** (Litjens) Creates the Special Needs Scholarship Program for disabled pupils.

Senate Judiciary, Utilities, Commerce, and Government Operations

11am, Tuesday, May 3, 201 SE

[SB-42](#). **Child Abuse** (Wanggaard) Requires mandatory reporting of child abuse or neglect by school district employees.

Senate Labor, Public Safety, and Urban Affairs/Assembly Criminal Justice and Corrections

11am, Thursday, May 5, 411 S

[SB-57/AB-86](#). **Early Release** (Wanggaard/Suder) Eliminates positive adjustment time and risk reduction sentences, restores the parole commission, eliminates the Earned Release Review Commission, and returns the sentencing provisions and most of the provisions relating to early release from confinement to what existed in law prior to 2009 Wisconsin Act 28.

New Bills of Interest

[SB-63](#). **TPR** (Lazich) Changes affecting termination of parental rights (TPR) for children under eight. To Public Health, Human Services and Revenue.

[SB-64](#). **Adoption Records** (Lazich) Disclosure of adoption records to determine the availability of a placement for a child with an adoptive parent or proposed adoptive parent of a sibling of the child. To Public Health, Human Services and Revenue.

[SB-65](#). **Sibling Visitation** (Lazich) Requires a child's permanency plan to include a statement as to whether visitation between the child and a sibling is in the best interests of the child and sibling when parental visitation is denied, limited, discontinued, or prohibited. To Public Health, Human Services and Revenue.

[SB-66](#). **Tax Exemption** (Leibham) Property tax exemption for a non-profit resale store. To Tax Exemptions.

[SB-69](#). **School Tuition** (Grothman) Creates a non-refundable individual income tax credit for tuition expenses for dependents attending private elementary and secondary schools. To Education.

[SB-78](#). **Prescription Drugs** (Carpenter) Waiver for prescription drug assistance for elderly program. To Insurance and Housing.

[SB-79](#). **Self-defense** (Wanggaard) Privilege of self-defense. To Judiciary.

[SB-82](#). **Child Powers** (Moulton) Delegation by a parent, guardian, or legal custodian of a child of powers regarding the care and custody of the child by a power of attorney. To Public Health, Human Services and Revenue.

[AB-100](#). **Sex Offenses** (Staskunas) Restrictions on viewing evidentiary recordings of persons under 18 engaging in sexually explicit conduct; penalties for certain sex offenses against children. To Criminal Justice and Corrections.

[AB-102](#). **Children** (LeMahieu) Penalties for crimes against children by certain persons. To Criminal Justice.

[AB-110](#). **Disabled Pupils** (Litjens) Creates the Special Needs Scholarship Program for disabled pupils. To Education.

[AB-112](#). **School Tuition** (Jacque) Creates a non-refundable income tax credit for tuition expenses for dependents who attend private elementary and secondary schools. 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