

Capitol Update

October 14, 2011

Contents Include:

1. WCC Opposes Unpardoned Felon Bill
2. Bill to Reform Sex Education Introduced
3. WCC Supports Parental Choice Legislation
4. Upcoming Hearings of Interest
5. New Bills of Interest

WCC Opposes Unpardoned Felon Bill

In [testimony](#) the Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC) opposed [Assembly Bill 286](#) (Rep. Joel Kleefisch, R-Oconomowoc), which would permit employers to terminate or refuse to hire any person convicted of an unpardoned felony, and would prohibit local municipalities from adopting provisions to prevent this law from being followed. The bill received a public hearing in the Assembly Committee on Labor and Workforce Development, which took no further action on the bill.

Bill to Reform Sex Education Introduced

Senator Mary Lazich (R-New Berlin) today introduced [Senate Bill 237](#), also known as the “Strong Communities...Healthy Kids Act.” In 2010, Wisconsin enacted the “Healthy Youth Act”, which requires that if a school district chooses to provide pupils with human growth and development instruction it must instruct them using “comprehensive sex education.” SB 237 restores local control, parental involvement, and permits a variety of curricula, including those that are abstinence-based. The WCC supports the bill, which is expected to receive a public hearing on Wednesday, October 19. The WCC encourages readers to contact their legislators, asking them to support the bill.

WCC Supports Parental Choice Legislation

The WCC supports legislation recently introduced that changes certain policies and processes used in administering parental choice programs (currently available in Racine and Milwaukee). The bills, [Assembly Bill 324](#), sponsored by Representative Jason Fields (D-Milwaukee), and [Senate Bill 234](#), sponsored by Senator Leah Vukmir (R-Wauwatosa), would alter what entities may preaccredit and accredit Choice participating schools; more closely aligns Choice student fees policy with that of public schools for students of limited means; clarifies the

process of income eligibility verification through the Department of Revenue for Choice applicants; and establishes that students who were income eligible for the program in the 2010-11 academic year continue to remain income eligible in succeeding years.

The WCC will register its support for AB 324 before the Assembly Committee on Education, which will hold a public hearing on the bill on Wednesday, October 19, 2011. The WCC encourages others, especially families and supporters of schools participating in the Choice program, to contact their legislators and urge support for these proposals.

Upcoming Hearings of Interest

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

Assembly Health

10:00am, Wed., Oct. 19, 417 N.

[AB-276](#). **Epinephrine auto-injectors** (Strachota) Allows certain pupils to possess and use epinephrine auto-injectors. To Insurance.

Assembly Education

11:00am, Wed., Oct. 19, 412 E.

[AB-314](#). **Parental Choice** (Vos) Closes parental choice program for eligible school districts to additional school districts. To Education.

[AB-324](#). **Choice Program** (Fields) Changes to accreditation, income eligibility, fees and tuition, and standards of conduct for those participating in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program and the choice program for eligible school districts. To Education.

New Bills of Interest

[SB-212](#). **Nursing Homes** (Galloway) Makes various changes in regulation of nursing homes. To Public Health, Human Services and Revenue.

[SB-232](#). **DHS/MA** (Erpenbach) Eliminates ability of DHS to alter MA eligibility; other changes. To Public Health, Human Services and Revenue.

[SB 234](#). **Choice Program** (Vukmir) Changes to accreditation, income eligibility, fees and tuition, and standards of conduct for those participating in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program and the choice program for eligible school districts. To Education.

[AB-286](#). **Felons – Employment** (Kleefisch) Permits an employer to refuse to employ, bar or terminate employment of unpardoned felons; pre-empts local units from adopting provisions concerning employment discrimination based on arrest or conviction record that prohibit activity that is allowed under state fair employment law. To Labor and Workforce Development.

[AB-287](#). **Adoptions** (Bernier) Creates a non-refundable individual income tax credit for certain adoption expenses; modifies eligibility for adoption expenses tax deduction. To Children and Families.

[AB-302](#). **Nursing Homes** (Knodl) Makes various changes in regulation of nursing homes. To Aging and Long-Term Care.

[AB-312](#). **Insurance** (Richards) Implements federal health insurance law changes. To Insurance.

[AB-314](#). **Parental Choice** (Vos) Closes parental choice program for eligible school districts to additional school districts. To Education.

[AB-324](#). **Choice Program** (Fields) Changes to accreditation, income eligibility, fees and tuition, and standards of conduct for those participating in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program and the choice program for eligible school districts. 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