

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALT LAKE CITY
2012 Utah Legislative Session
Bill Tracking Sheet

Bill Number	Sponsor	Title and Summary	Diocesan Analysis	Bill Status
HB 10	Hutchings	Department of Corrections Amendments: <i>Defines levels of capacity regarding inmates in correctional institutions; requires notice to the legislative leadership and the Board of Pardons, in addition to the governor, when an overcrowding emergency is approaching; and provides process for an emergency inmate release, including requiring that inmate information be provided to the Board of Pardons and Parole for use in carrying out an emergency release.</i>	The bill provides some assurance of humane living conditions for prisoners.	GO
SB 21 1 st Sub	Dayton	Department of Environmental Quality Boards Revisions: <i>Changes the composition of each environmental quality board and transfers powers from the board to the executive director.</i>	The bill has the potential to negatively impact creation by removing the boards from final decisions on licenses and other items. Leaving this power to one executive director rather than a several-member board raises concerns about the thoroughness of the decision-making process.	GO
SB 37	Reid	Intergenerational Poverty Provisions: <i>Requires the Department of Workforce Services to establish and maintain a system to track intergenerational poverty related data to identify at-risk children and other groups, identify trends, and to assist case workers, social scientists, and government officials to study and develop plans and programs to assist individuals and families to break the cycle of poverty.</i>	Somewhat unnecessary. Per the sponsor, the State already has the data, it just needs to manipulate it for the information they seek now. However, it is encouraging that legislators are discussing the issue of intergenerational poverty.	GO
HB 49 1 st Sub.	Ray	Firearms Revisions: <i>Provides that in the absence of additional threatening behavior, the otherwise lawful possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon, whether visible or concealed, may not be considered a violation of certain municipal ordinances;</i>	Implicates development of a culture of life by encouraging openly carrying firearms. Eliminates the ability of law enforcement to charge a person openly carrying a firearm with the intent to cause alarm with disorderly conduct.	S
SB 51	McAdams	Statewide Nondiscrimination Protection Amendments: <i>Modifies definition provisions related to employment and housing discrimination, including defining "gender identity" and "sexual orientation"; defines "political speech or activity" for purposes of employment; includes sexual orientation and gender identity as a prohibited basis for discrimination in employment; prohibits political</i>	The Catholic Church has long argued against discrimination in housing and employment based on sexual orientation as a matter of basic human dignity.	FSC

		<i>speech or activity as a basis for discrimination in employment; modifies exemptions to the Utah Fair Housing Act; includes sexual orientation and gender identity as a prohibited basis for discriminatory housing practices; and makes technical and conforming amendments.</i>		
HB 66	Daw	Deferred Deposit Lending Amendments: <i>Requires a pay day lender to annually report the total number of individuals to whom the lender extended a deferred deposit loan; the range of annual percentage rates charged on deferred deposit loans extended by the lender; and the average annual percentage rate charged on a deferred deposit loan extended by the lender.</i>	Provides additional protections for consumers against predatory lending practices.	HR
HB 70	Arent	Air Quality Task Force: <i>Creates the Air Quality Task Force to identify changes to state laws and regulations that could improve air quality in Utah.</i>	Promotes care for creation through examination of current practices and deliberate consideration of policies to promote better air quality.	SRC
HB 97	Seelig	Racketeering Amendments: <i>Adds the offenses of human trafficking, human smuggling, and aggravated human trafficking to the list of offenses that, when conducted as a pattern of unlawful activity, would constitute the offense of racketeering.</i>	Adds to the potential penalties imposed on those who engage in human trafficking.	GO
HB 101 1 st Sub	King	Tax Credits for Employing a Homeless Person: <i>Enacts nonrefundable corporate and individual income tax credits for employing a homeless person.</i>	The number of people employed based on this bill may be minimal, but helping even one person out of homelessness may be worth the potential loss of tax revenues—and hopefully those revenues will be recouped through the successful employment of individuals who will then be able to purchase taxed goods and services.	SRC
HB 106	Grover	Limitation on Collective Bargaining: <i>Prohibits state and local government entities from engaging in collective bargaining on subjects other than wages and health benefits.</i>	Catholic teaching supports the rights of workers to have an equal voice at the bargaining table. What is grounds for bargaining should be determined by employer and employee representatives, not government.	HRC
SB 110	McAdams	Deferred Deposit Lending and Forum: <i>Requires a deferred deposit lender to bring suit against a client in the county where the client resides or where the client obtained the loan.</i>	Provides additional protections for consumers against predatory lending practices.	FSC
SB 111	Robles	Health Amendments for Legal Immigrant Children: <i>Exercises the option to remove the five-year residency requirement for a legal</i>	Our teachings require that all people have access to those things required to live a life	SRC

		<i>immigrant child to be eligible for coverage under Medicaid or the Utah Children's Health Insurance Program; and directs the Department of Health to amend the state Medicaid plan and the Utah Children's Health Insurance Program to provide coverage to an eligible legal immigrant child, regardless of the length of time that the child has been in the United States.</i>	of dignity-including health care. This legislation provides access to health care for some of our youngest citizens.	
HB 125	Cosgrove	Access to Dental Health Care: <i>Authorizes the state Medicaid plan to pilot dental health care payment and delivery reform models; establishes some criteria for the dental health care pilot project; requires the Medicaid program to evaluate cost and access to dental care in the pilot program; and requires the Medicaid program to report to the Legislature regarding the evaluation of the dental health care pilot program.</i>	Access to health care is a basic human right. Dental health affects many aspects of personal health, including heart disease and other issues.	S
HB 132	Pitcher	Premarital Education and Counseling Amendments: <i>Reduces the marriage license fee for a couple who undergo premarital education or counseling; increases the license fee for a couple who do not undergo premarital education or counseling; creates a three day waiting period for a license before it can be used; and sets out a list of topics the premarital counseling should cover.</i>	We have discussed concerns about religious freedom with the sponsor, who made changes to the bill. The concept of encouraging stronger marriages is important.	FS
HB 138	Briscoe	State Tax Commission Report on Tax Provisions: <i>Requires the State Tax Commission to make a report to the Legislature on certain tax provisions and provide that report to the Utah Transparency Advisory Board to be posted on the Utah Public Finance Website.</i>	The bill comport with Catholic teaching regarding our duty to be involved in our government processes by providing greater transparency from the Tax Commission.	HRC
HB 143	Wright	Alien Worker Amendments: <i>Modifies general government provisions to harmonize provisions related to the imposition of taxes or fees on aliens who are permitted to work under a program implemented by the state and modifies provisions related to the guest worker program.</i>	A clean up bill related to the fee provisions from last year's guest worker program.	HRC
SB 144	Robles	Immigration Consultants: <i>Enacts the Immigration Consultants Registration Act, including: defining terms; requiring certain persons to be registered as immigration consultants; establishing application requirements; requiring a criminal background check; providing requirements for posting a bond; establishing requirements for a contract entered into by an immigration consultant; requiring accounting for services; addressing translations and prohibited acts; and providing for enforcement and for recovery of losses.</i>	Provides protections for immigrants from unscrupulous individuals who prey on this vulnerable population.	GO
2nd Sub SB 151	Stephenson	Student Opportunity Scholarships: Replace by the sponsor in committee is now <i>Students At Risk Academic Failure Study</i>	Determining how best to serve students at risk of failing out of school is an important goal.	H

HB 155	Wilson	<p>Drug Screening for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Recipients: <i>Requires a parent who otherwise qualifies for cash assistance under Utah's Family Employment Program to complete a written questionnaire designed to determine the likelihood of the parent having a substance use disorder; requires an applicant to submit to a drug test if the written questionnaire indicates a reasonable likelihood that the applicant has a substance use disorder; requires an applicant who tests positive for a controlled substance to enter into and follow an employment plan that includes the following to continue to receive cash assistance under the Family Employment Program: receiving treatment for a substance use disorder; and testing negative on follow-up drug tests for a controlled substance; provides that refusing to take a drug test, failing a drug test, not entering into an employment plan, or failing to successfully follow an employment plan's substance use disorder treatment requirements, and makes an applicant ineligible for cash assistance under the Family Employment Program and for reapplication for cash assistance: for 90 days after a first occurrence within one year; or for one year after a second occurrence within one year.</i></p>	<p>The bill is intended to serve as an aid to help those with drug abuse problems that hinder employment. However, requiring every person seeking TANF to complete a drug use questionnaire reinforces inaccurate stereotypes about people in need of public assistance. There are no similar drug testing requirements for drivers' licenses, concealed weapons permits, or other public services.</p>	S
SB 157	Urquhart	<p>Utah Immigration Accountability and Enforcement: <i>Modifies general government provisions, oversight provisions, and criminal provisions to repeal a guest worker program, and certain e-verify requirements, and amends related provisions.</i></p>	<p>Utah's guest worker law was not ideal, particularly since it provided an opportunity for notarios to take advantage of the poor and vulnerable. However, it was an attempt to find a humane solution to our immigration questions. Repealing the law would eliminate a potential federal law suit against the guest worker law.</p>	FSC
SB 170	Urquhart	<p>Driver License Qualification Amendments: <i>Repeals the use of a temporary identification number (ITIN) issued by the Internal Revenue Service for purposes of obtaining a driving privilege card issued by the Driver License Division; expires all driving privilege cards on December 31, 2012; and prohibits the Driver License Division from issuing a driving privilege car.</i></p>	<p>The driver privilege card is an important option for individuals trying to move out of poverty who need to be able to drive to work or school. It also ensures that drivers have proper car insurance.</p>	SC
HB 174		<p>Sales and Use Tax Allocations for Water Resources Construction Fund: <i>Creates an earmark of 15% of growth in sales and use tax to be reserved for use on water resource construction projects.</i></p>	<p>Combined with last year's 30% earmark for transportation projects, 45% of all sales and use tax growth would be bottled up. Those are funds that would normally be</p>	HRC

			used for programs for vulnerable Utahns, state courts, law enforcement, colleges and universities, and other equally vital services.	
HB 215	Morley	Labor Related Amendments: <i>Lowers the burden of proof on a business asserting that an individual is not an employee of the business.</i>	The bill enables businesses to claim an individual performing work for the business is not an employee, thereby avoiding payroll taxes, workers compensation payments and the provision of benefits. Businesses often abuse the “independent contractor” label to deprive workers of their rights and reduce income tax and other revenues needed to perform government functions.	SRC
HB 221	Grover	Sexual Trafficking: <i>Provides that if a person exploits prostitution and in the course of that offense commits the offense of human trafficking for forced sexual exploitation, the person shall be charged with the human trafficking offense.</i>	Addresses a growing problem in Utah, but may raise concerns for prosecutors.	HRC
HB 227	Grover	Sex Trafficking-Penalties: <i>Provides the grounds and procedures for the judicial vacating of a conviction for a prostitution offense if the defendant is a victim of human trafficking and that situation resulted in the prostitution conviction.</i>	Recognizes trafficking issues in prostitution, but after the fact. Prosecutors may already offer the victim protection for their testimony before a conviction.	HRC
SB 249	Madsen	Firearm Possession Amendments: Expands the definition of a “licensed” person who can enter a Gun Free School Zone with a firearm from a concealed carry permit holder to any gun owner.	Would enable individuals under the age of 21 to carry firearms into Gun Free School Zones.	S
HB 253 1 st Sub	Powell	Voter Registration Amendments: <i>Requires the removal of a voter from the official register: upon notification that a voter has subsequently registered to vote in another state; upon notification of a criminal conviction that prohibits a person from voting; and after two consecutive regular general elections following a notice to which the voter fails to respond; requires the county clerk to send a notice to a voter who fails to vote in two consecutive regular general elections.</i>	Catholics have a moral obligation to vote. However, sometimes a Catholic may decide that not voting is the best option. A voter should not be removed from the voter rolls because he or she exercised the right not to vote.	GO
HB 300	Herrod	Illegal Alien Related Amendments: <i>Replaces the guest worker permit with the Utah Illegal Alien Family Transition Program, a two-tiered permit system. Requires substantial changes to federal law before the program can be implemented; requires the department of public safety, under the direction of the governor, to write a letter to</i>	This bill continues to label immigrants and undermines our belief that all people have a right to basic human dignity. The diocese believes immigration is a federal issue and proposals such as this encourage	HRC

		<i>Utah's congressional delegation regarding other changes in federal law; provides types of permits that can be obtained within a set time frame; addresses benefits and uses of permits; provides that permits are not a form of identification; modifies eligibility criteria to obtain and maintain a permit; provides when an illegal alien family is disqualified from obtaining a permit; modifies provisions related to background checks of applicants; imposes requirements related to sponsorships; addresses the application and renewal process, including the payment of fines; addresses conditions during a permit term; modifies prohibited conduct and related penalties; addresses state participation in enforcement of federal immigration law; imposes requirements related to participation in the federal IMAGE program; creates a private right of action related to employers who do not participate in the federal IMAGE program; directs the governor to urge the Utah congressional delegation to support the establishment of various federal visas; modifies provisions related to the Identity Theft Victims Restricted Account.</i>	emotionally charged, vitriolic debates without providing a real solution to the suffering of immigrants, or issues of enforcement.	
HB 315	Ray	Domestic Violence and Dating Violence Amendments: <i>Provides for the issuance, modification, and enforcement of protective orders between parties who are, or have been, in a dating relationship when: the parties are emancipated or 18 years of age or older; the parties are, or have been, in a dating relationship with each other; and a party commits abuse or dating violence against the other party.</i>	Catholic teaching supports protections for all against acts of violence. Dating violence is often ignored or minimized, and protective orders have not been possible in the past, except in rare instances.	HRC
HB 366	Dougall	Receipt of Welfare Benefits Amendments: <i>Requires the Department of Workforces Services to inform the owner of a Social Security number and an appropriate law enforcement agency if, in the process of determining an individual's eligibility for a public benefit, the department learns a valid Social Security number is being used by an unauthorized individual.</i>	Not sure why the bill is titled as it is, but the goal of protecting individuals from identity theft is important. It might provide better protections, however if law enforcement were required to verify the SSN is being used illegally and notify the legitimate owner of the number rather than having DWS contact the owner.	GO
HB 461	Eliason	Abortion Waiting Period: <i>Extends the waiting period for an abortion from 24 hours to 72 hours, unless an exception exists.</i>	Current state law provides an extensive list of information that must be provided to a woman seeking an abortion. This bill would require that the woman have 72 hours to consider the information rather than the current 24.	S
HB 501	Hutchings	Youth Suicide Prevention: <i>Requires the State Board of Education to</i>	Especially important in a state with one of	PHS

		<i>develop sample materials to be used by a school district or charter school regarding student suicide prevention; and requires school districts and charter schools to provide in-service training on youth suicide prevention every five years.</i>	the highest suicide rates in the country. Provides for protection of life.	

Key: C-Committee E-Enrolled H-House S-Senate F-Failed P-passed V-Vetoed by Governor GO-sent to Governor's Office for Action