



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE  
WEEK 4  
WEEK ENDING 2/2/2024

SUPPORT

1. The Unborn Child Parent's Survivor Act (Rep. Persons-Mulicka/Sen. Grall) [HB 651/SB 476](#)

**Description:** This legislation adds an unborn child's parents to the definition of survivor in wrongful death civil lawsuits, further humanizing the unborn baby in state statute.

**Status:** The House version passed the first of two committees and is waiting for a hearing in its final committee. Meanwhile, the Senate version has been scheduled for its first of three hearings in the Judiciary Committee on Monday, February 5th at 2:30 pm in Room 110 in the Senate Office Building!

2. Adoptive Parent Registry Act (Rep. Abbott/Sen. Harrell) [HB 327/SB 306](#)

**Description:** This bill seeks to create a potential adoption registry of prospective parents who have been vetted properly and are awaiting adoption opportunities for newborns surrendered for adoption. The goal of the legislation is to create a streamlined process for adoption, in addition to reducing the cost of adoption.

**Status:** On Tuesday, the Senate bill passed its first committee, Children, Families, and Elder Affairs unanimously, and has been scheduled for its second of three hearings in the Judiciary Committee on Monday, February 5th at 2:30 pm in Room 110 in the Senate Office Building! The House bill has yet to move.

3. Surrendered Infants Protection Act (Rep. Canady/Sen. Yarborough) [HB 775/SB 790](#)

**Description:** This expands the window that allows for new mothers to give up their newborn babies and to surrender parental rights to enable the child to be adopted. It also expands the list of individuals with whom babies may be left and the locations where they may be surrendered.

**Status:** The House version is awaiting a final vote on the full House floor, while on Tuesday, the Senate version unanimously passed the second of three stops, Children, Families, and Elder Affairs.

4. Pregnancy and Parenting Online Resources Act (Rep. Jacques/Sen. Grall) [HB 415/SB 436](#)

**Description:** This bill mandates several state agencies create an online portal listing links to numerous public and private pregnancy and parenting resources for new parents, including mothers with unplanned pregnancies. Resources linked will include adoption services, maternal health services, social support and other pregnancy-related resources to help provide care for new parents.

**Status:** On Monday, the House version unanimously passed its second committee, Healthcare Appropriations, with one final stop, while the Senate version is awaiting the second of three hearings.

5. Financial Support for Pregnant Survivors of Rape or Assault Act (Rep. J. Lopez/Sen. Stewart) [HB 717/SB 1268](#)

**Description:** This proposal states that women who are pregnant as a result of rape or incest – who choose life for their babies – will be exempt from select college tuition and education fees and will qualify for state grants to cover childcare while pursuing their education.

**Status:** Neither bill has moved yet.

## Gender and Sexuality

### SUPPORT

I. Anti-Human Trafficking Minimum Age for Adult Entertainment Act (Rep. Amesty/Sen. Yarborough) [HB 1379/SB 1690](#)

**Description:** This provision seeks to curb the sexual exploitation of young women by restricting adult entertainment strip clubs, entities that are often used to

groom young women into sex trafficking, from hiring any employees under 21.

**Status:** On Tuesday, the Senate bill passed its first committee, Criminal Justice, 6-2, with two remaining committees left, while on Thursday, the House bill passed its first committee, Regulatory Reform, 13-2, and also has two remaining stops.

## 2. Defending Biological Sex in Healthcare Act (Rep. Bankson) [HB 1639](#)

**Description:** The bill requires that any healthcare insurance providers that cover chemical and surgical gender-reassignment procedures to also cover procedures for detransitioning back to one's biological sex. It also mandates that insurance providers must offer insurance plans that do not cover chemical and surgical transgender procedures and are forbidden from denying counseling and mental healthcare services meant to help individuals struggling with gender identity to reaffirm and embrace their biological sex.

**Status:** On Thursday, the House bill passed its second hearing in the House Insurance and Banking Subcommittee, 12-6, and has one stop remaining.

## 3. Prostitution and Human Trafficking Enforcement Act (Rep. Silvers/Sen. Grall) [HB 1385/SB 1590](#)

**Description:** This proposal strengthens anti-human trafficking laws by prohibiting adults from offering to commit, committing, or engaging in prostitution and related acts; prohibiting the owning, establishing, maintaining, operating, using, letting, or renting of any building, or structure of any kind, with knowledge or reckless disregard that it will be used for the purpose of commercial sex; and prohibiting the receiving, or offering or agreeing to receive or allow a person to remain into a location for the purpose of commercial sexual activity. The house and senate versions do differ; we strongly support and prefer the Senate language.

**Status:** On Tuesday, the Senate version passed its first committee stop, Criminal Justice, 5-3, and moves on to its second of three committees. The House version has not moved yet.

## 4. Retention of Sexual Offense Evidence Act (Rep. Plakon/Sen. Stewart) [HB 607/SB 764](#)

**Description:** This bill establishes, that in cases where a victim is unwilling or scared to press charges, that minimum timeframes must be set for keeping that specified sexual offense evidence to be used in future cases when victims are

willing to call out criminals. It also requires specified protocols for storing that sexual offense evidence for security and consistency.

**Status:** The House version is awaiting a hearing in the final of three committees, while the Senate version is also awaiting a hearing in its second of three committees.

## Protecting Parental Rights and Children's Safety

### SUPPORT

#### 1. Porn Age Verification Act (Rep. Tramont/Sen. Grall) [HB 3/SB 1792](#)

**Description:** This legislation seeks to protect minors from blatant pornographic and sexually explicit content online, by requiring comprehensive age verification for access to adult sex and pornographic websites and apps, with significant penalties for the corporations pushing this dangerous content on minors.

**Status:** Previously, the House version passed the full House floor unanimously and was delivered to the Senate; meanwhile, the Senate version has been scheduled for its first hearing in the Judiciary Committee on Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm in Room 110 in the Senate Office Building!

#### 2. School Chaplain Act (Rep. McClain/Sen. Grall) [HB 931/SB 1044](#)

**Description:** This provision authorizes school districts & charter schools to adopt policies to allow volunteer school chaplains and requires district school boards & charter school governing boards to assign specified duties and roles within the school district to those volunteer school chaplains.

**Status:** On Tuesday, the House version passed its final committee, Education And Employment, 15-4, and moves on to the House floor for a final vote. The Senate version has not moved yet.

#### 3. Offenses Involving Children Act (Rep. Baker/Sen. Collins) [HB 305/SB 312](#)

**Description:** This proposal closes a loophole in state law to ensure proper protections for minors from dangerous criminals, and that those criminals are properly charged and designated as sexual predators.

**Status:** The House version had previously passed the full House floor, while on Monday, the Senate version passed unanimously out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. It has one final committee left.

**4. Lewd or Lascivious Grooming Act (Rep. Yarkosky/Sen. Martin) [HB 1135/SB 1238](#)**

**Description:** This proposal states that a person who engages in the process of preparing or encouraging a child to engage in sexual activity through overtly sexually themed communication with the child or in conduct with or observed by the child for the purpose of encouraging the children to participate in unlawful sexual behavior commits lewd or lascivious grooming and will be subject to criminal charges.

**Status:** On Monday, the House version unanimously passed Justice Appropriations, and heads to its final committee, while on Tuesday, the Senate version passed 6-2 and heads to its second stop.

**5. Protection of Minors from Marijuana, Vaping, and Alcoholic Beverage Establishments Act (Rep. Amesty) [HB 1053](#)**

**Description:** This act mandates that new medical marijuana centers, retail vape shops, and alcoholic beverage bars must be located at certain minimum distances from religious or educational institutions.

**Status:** The bill has previously passed its first of three committees.