

Joint Public Affairs Committee – Overview of legislative proposals

The following legislative proposals have recently been introduced in the Legislature or will be in the near future:

1.) SB 306 / AB 371

- **Author:** Sen. Mary Lazich (R-New Berlin) / Rep. Michelle Litgens (R-Appleton)
- **Status:** A public hearing was held on SB 306 by the Senate Health Committee on Dec. 14, 2011.
- **Analysis:**
This legislation would require physicians performing abortions to confirm a woman is voluntarily consenting to an abortion and is not being coerced into undergoing the procedure. A physician who determines a woman is being coerced must provide the woman with domestic abuse information and access to a phone. In addition, the bill would require physicians to give a woman a complete, on-site physical exam before providing an abortion-inducing drug.

2.) SB 313 / AB 396

- **Author:** Sen. Mary Lazich (R-New Berlin) / Rep. Dale Kooyenga (R-Brookfield)
- **Status:** To date, the legislation has not received a public hearing.
- **Analysis:**
Under Wisconsin's Safe Haven program, a parent of a newborn child may relinquish custody of the child to a qualified law enforcement officer or health care professional within 72 hours of the child's birth. This legislation would extend the timeline under the Safe Haven program to 30 days after the birth of the child.

3.) AB 405

- **Author:** Rep. Tony Staskunas (D-West Allis)
- **Status:** To date, the legislation has not received a public hearing.
- **Analysis:**
Under current law, an individual is guilty of a felony if they commit a fourth OWI offense within five years. This bill would make a fourth OWI offense a felony, regardless of the time elapsed since the first offense.

4.) Electronic smoking device legislation

- **Author:** Sen. Glenn Grothman (R-West Bend) / Rep. Dale Kooyenga (R-Brookfield)
- **Status:** This legislation has not yet been introduced.
- **Analysis:**
This bill exempts electronic smoking devices that do not contain tobacco from the definition of "smoking" under Wisconsin's Smoke-Free Air law.

5.) Medical marijuana legislation

- **Author:** Sen. Jon Erpenbach (D-Middleton) / Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Madison)
- **Status:** This legislation has not yet been introduced.
- **Analysis:**

This legislation would allow patients with debilitating medical conditions to have access to and possess marijuana if: 1.) They receive physician authorization; or 2.) They have a valid registry card from the WI Department of Health Services. More specifically, the bill would:

- Provide a medical necessity defense to marijuana-related prosecutions.
- Create a maximum authorized amount of marijuana a patient may possess.
- Prohibit the arrest of a physician who provides a written certification in good faith.
- Require DHS to establish a registry for medical users of marijuana and provide an ID card to qualifying patients.
- Require DHS to license and regulate nonprofit corporations that distribute marijuana.

6.) Ignition interlock device legislation

- **Author:** Rep. Tony Staskunas (D-West Allis)
- **Status:** This legislation has not yet been introduced.
- **Analysis:**

Under current law, repeat OWI offenders and first-time offenders with a Blood Alcohol Level (BAC) of .15 or higher are required to use ignition interlock devices. This bill would require all drivers convicted of an OWI to install an ignition interlock device, regardless of BAC level.