

Subject: Monday Morning Group Minutes
From: "Elizabeth Krueger" <kruegere@cbia.com>
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To: avonchamber@sbcglobal.net

CBIA Monday Morning Group

February 7, 2011

Next meeting – Monday, February 14

Banks (Bonnie Stewart) - The Banks Committee is having a public hearing on Thursday where they have a number of different issues on the agenda regarding identity theft and investment in public securities. They are no other banking matters of interest to the business community at large at the moment.

Please contact Bonnie Stewart at Bonnie.Stewart@cbia.com for information regarding Banks.

Commerce (Louis Bach)– At last week's public hearing CBIA testified in support of a modified **SB-842**, the Jobs Impact Statement bill, asking that the legislature consider the relative complexity of data that informs employment modeling and the need for knowledgeable and experienced staff to perform the analysis. It was highlighted that the most accurate economic modeling can, for example, identify the results of capital investment and show the increase in state employment resulting from the manufacturing job "multiplier effect." More nuanced data, however – the state's overall competitiveness – is not as easily discerned through even the most careful economic modeling. Job retention and increased skill levels among current employees are more difficult to account for, though they are no less important to a complete understanding of the overall employment picture in Connecticut.

The Commerce Committee is going to be fairly quiet this week, holding an informal presentation tomorrow.

Please contact Louis Bach at Louis.Bach@cbia.com for information regarding Commerce.

Education (Louis Bach)– Also a quiet week, though the Committee will be reviewing committee bills this morning.

Please contact Louis Bach at Louis.Bach@cbia.com for information regarding Education.

Higher Education and Employment Advancement (Louis Bach) - There will be public hearings this week on Tuesday and Thursday.

Please contact Louis Bach at Louis.Bach@cbia.com for information regarding Higher Education.

Energy (Kevin Hennessy)– This week the Energy & Technology committee has a hearing scheduled for Thursday and the issues on the agenda deal with carve outs for renewable energy credits for various technologies.

Please contact Kevin Hennessy at Kevin.Hennessy@cbia.com for information regarding Energy.

Environment (Eric Brown) - A variety of positive discussions are taking place with respect to brownfield legislation. We are hopeful that the Brownfields work group will be offering a package of significant proposals in the near future.

Please contact Eric Brown at Eric.Brown@cbia.com for information regarding Environment.

GAE (Kevin Hennessy) - The GAE Committee is hearing some bills today, but not much of their spending bills yet. Most of those will probably come out after the Governor's Budget Address next week. On the agenda for today they do have some "good government" bills:

- **SB-880** An Act Concerning The Publication Of State Agency Regulations On The Internet
- **SB- 882** An Act Concerning the Evaluation of Contractors and Subcontractors by Private Sector Employees

- **HB-6272** An Act Concerning Revisions to the State Code of Ethics

Please contact Kevin Hennessy at Kevin.Hennessy@cbia.com for information regarding GAE.

General Law (Louis Bach) - General Law is holding a public hearing tomorrow for the "alcohol bills," including the headline-grabbing Sunday Sales bill. We are not tracking these bills.

Please contact Louis Bach at Louis.Bach@cbia.com for information regarding General Law.

Healthcare (Eric George) – Last Friday, Gov Malloy named Tom Leonardi as the new Insurance Commissioner.

The Insurance Committee has a committee meeting and a public hearing scheduled for Tuesday. On the agenda are:

- Proposed **HB- 5441** An Act Requiring Health Insurance Coverage For Weight Loss Programs
- Proposed **HB- 5445** An Act Concerning Prescription Drug Coverage

The Insurance Committee is also holding a public hearing Thursday and on the agenda are:

- **HB-5032** An Act Requiring Health Insurance Coverage For Bone Marrow Testing.
- **SB-877** An Act Concerning Mental Health Parity.
- **SB- 879** An Act Concerning Prescription Eye Drops.
- **SB-396** An Act Concerning Insurance Coverage For Certain Therapies And Prescription Drugs For The Treatment Of Prostate Cancer.
- **SB- 316** An Act Prohibiting Differential Payment Rates To Health Care Providers For Colonoscopy Or Endoscopic Services Based On Site Of Service.
- **SB- 312** An Act Eliminating The Age Cap For Health Insurance Coverage For Specialized Formula.

The Human Services Committee has a committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday and a public hearing scheduled for Thursday. On the schedule for Thursday are:

- Proposed **SB- 9** An Act Concerning Medicaid Eligibility.
- **HB- 5560** An Act Concerning An Evaluation Of The Medicaid Program.

The Public Health Committee has a committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday.

Please contact Eric George at Eric.George@cbia.com for information regarding Healthcare.

Judiciary (Kevin Hennessy)– The Judiciary Committee has nothing this week; their first hearing is scheduled for next Monday.

Please contact Kevin Hennessy at Kevin.Hennessy@cbia.com for information regarding Judiciary.

Labor (Kia Murrell)– Due to several snow storm cancellations, the Labor Committee is very busy this week.

SB-913 An Act Mandating Employers to Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees has finally been drafted and raised. The bill is essentially the same as in past years, applying to employers of 50 or more employees, and exempting only day or temporary workers and certain state university system employees. The Committee's public hearing deadline of Feb 22nd makes it likely that a hearing will be scheduled very soon.

On Tuesday the Committee will hold an informational forum on Binding Arbitration and Prevailing Wage.

On Thursday the Committee will hold its first public hearing. **HB-5460** An Act Concerning Captive Audience meetings is on the agenda. That same day, an informational forum on Unemployment Compensation will also be held.

The Public Safety, Veterans' Affairs and Housing Committees are also holding public hearings this week but there are no business issues on the agendas.

Please contact Kia Murrell at Kia.Murrell@cbia.com for information regarding Labor.

Planning & Development (Bonnie Stewart) - The Planning & Development Committee is having a public hearing today primarily on group home issues.

Please contact Bonnie Stewart at Bonnie.Stewart@cbia.com for information regarding Planning & Development.

Spending & Taxes (Bonnie Stewart) – There is nothing happening in the Appropriations or Finance Committees, but there will be next week after the Governor gives his budget address.

Please contact Bonnie Stewart at Bonnie.Stewart@cbia.com for information regarding Spending & Taxes.

Transportation (Eric Brown) - There are a variety of bills on tolling that we are following:

- **HB-5949** An Act Instituting Toll Charges For Trucks Using Connecticut Interstate Highways
- **HB-6136** An Act Establishing Tolls At Connecticut's Borders
- **HB-6200** An Act Concerning The Imposition Of Tolls On New Highways Or Highway Extensions
- **SB-31** An Act Requiring The Operation Of Gateway Tolls

We are also following a few bills regarding special transportation funding:

- **SB-699** An Act Concerning The Use Of Funds From The Special Transportation Fund
- **SB-773** An Act Concerning The Voting Requirement For Nontransportation Appropriations From The Special Transportation Fund

We also expect the Governor and the legislature to advance a measure creating an independent authority to run Bradley Airport. We are supportive of this concept.

Thus far, one bill has been introduced on this issue: **HB-6139**.

Please contact Eric Brown at Eric.Brown@cbia.com for information regarding Transportation.

Connecticut Business Day is scheduled for [Wednesday, March 9](#) – SAVE THE DATE and register today! In addition to a keynote speaker, the morning will include four issue break-out sessions: Energy/Environment, Labor, Tax/Budget and Small Business. More details to follow.

For other information, check out "[Inside the Capitol](#)," CBIA's public policy blog.