

Subject: Monday Morning Group Minutes
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CBIA Monday Morning Group

March 21, 2011

Next meeting – Monday, March 28

Commerce (Lou Bach)- The Commerce Committee's deadline is tomorrow, 3/22, and we expect to see advancement of measures relating to the business portal concept and the manufacturers' reinvestment account.

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

Education (Lou Bach)- The Education Committee held its final public hearing on Thursday with much of the time spent on **SB-1160**'s proposed changes to tenure law, and a debate on how to best evaluate teachers' effectiveness. The Connecticut Council on Education Reform, a new nonprofit formed by many members of Governor Rell's Commission on Educational Achievement, pointed out that teacher effectiveness could not be properly assessed without looking at student outcomes. We also emphasized our support for the use of effectiveness measures based on student outcomes and educational progress. Recognizing that it takes many factors to make a good teacher, improvement in student performance ought to be the primary measure. The committee JF deadline is next Monday, 3/28.

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

Energy (Kevin Hennessy)- The Energy & Technology Committee's JF deadline is this Thursday (3/24). They are trying to conclude their business on Tuesday (3/22). **SB-1**, their major energy legislation this session, and **SB-1176**, a bill that will increase electric rates by taxing electric generators will most likely be acted on. Of note, Dan Esty reiterated this week that Governor Malloy does not like "Christmas Tree" legislation. That could impact **SB-1** moving forward.

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

Environment (Eric Brown)- The Environment Committee is meeting today to JF bills. On the agenda are:

- **HB-6386** AA Establishing The Department Of Energy And Environmental Protection. We are expecting subsection 1(a) of SB-1 to be added to the bill in order to clarify the priorities for the energy side if the new agency.
- **HB-6505** AAC Stream Flow Regulations, this bill would provide DEP with explicit authority to regulate withdrawals for wells for the purpose of ensuring adequate water flow in all rivers and streams in CT. CBIA is opposing.

Tomorrow, the Commerce Committee is meeting to JF bills and on the agenda is the brownfields liability bill: **HB-6526**. We are expecting substitute language to come out on this bill as well after much negotiation with DEP and environmental groups regarding Section 17. We have not seen the product of those negotiations so our position is not yet determined. Members interested in the issue should email Eric at eric.brown@cbia.com.

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

Healthcare (Eric George)- Last week, the long term disability bill, **SB-34**, was gutted on the Committee's JF deadline and turned into a study. If passed in its current form, the bill would direct the Program Review Committee to study the issue and the committee will report back by the end of the year.

This week, another health insurance exchange bill, **SB-1204**, is being heard in the Public Health Committee. We are urging the committee to ensure that Connecticut's federally mandated exchange be crafted in a way that bolsters, rather than hinders, the private sector. Another bill, **SB-921**, has already been approved by the Insurance Committee.

SB-921 is a very good bill that takes the federal health reform bill and begins to implement it in the state; CT must create a health insurance exchange by 2014.

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

GAE (Kevin Hennessy)- Has a public hearing on Monday – they are hearing conveyance and miscellaneous bills. Most bills concern “technical changes.”

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

Judiciary (Kevin Hennessy)- Judiciary has three public hearings scheduled this week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday). Monday's hearing covers claims, corrections and discrimination. Wednesday's will cover firearms and criminal procedure issues. The Friday hearing will cover Corporate and Condominium issues, including:

- **SB-1165** Criminal Liability for Corporations
- **SB-1207** Offers of Compromise
- **HB-6565** Business Entity Filings
- **HB-6590** Model Business Corporation Act
- **HB-6608** Uniform Arbitration Act
- **HB-6619** Unfair Business Practices
- **HB-6622** Burden of Proof in Medical Malpractice

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

Labor (Kia Murrell)- It has been a week since the Labor Committee's JF deadline, and several bills approved by the Committee and issued as file copies are now awaiting referrals to other committees.

Bills awaiting referral:

- **SB-913** AA Mandating Employers to Provide Paid Sick Leave to Their Employees (fiscal note of \$200,000; awaiting referral to Judiciary, Appropriations)
- **SB-361** AA Preventing the Use of Credit Scores in Hiring Decisions (fiscal note of \$85,000; awaiting referral to Judiciary)
- **SB-23** AAC Employees Injured Between 1993 and 2006 and Social Security Offsets Under the Workers' Compensation Act (fiscal note indicates minimal cost impact, but acknowledges new municipal mandate)

Two bills were approved by the House in last week's session:

- **HB-6176** AAC Increasing Penalties for Repeat Violations of the Personnel Files Act (Increases, from \$500 to \$1,000, the amount of fines for refusing to allow an employee access to his or her personnel file). CBIA opposes this bill, but given its nominal impact on most employers other than repeat violators, we will not lobby it before the full Senate.
- **HB-6096** AA Preserving Good Cause for Late Filing of Certain Unemployment Appeals (Allows parties to file appeals in UC claims cases beyond the 21-day deadline upon a showing of good cause). CBIA supports this legislation.

The Judiciary Committee has introduced several bills relating to the CT Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO), the state agency responsible for handling equal employment opportunity claims.

Today, one bill is subject to public hearing: **SB-1192** AAC The Processing of Complaints Filed with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. This measure requires the CHRO to (1) Expedite the processing of complaints filed with it; and (2) report to the legislature and the Governor specific reasons for the delay in processing complaints, including the number of continuances granted. CBIA is not taking a position on this legislation.

This Friday, March 25, CBIA will be holding a program on unemployment compensation. For more information or to register: [click here](#).

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

Spending & Taxes (Bonnie Stewart)- Today, the Finance Committee is holding the second of what is expected to be three public hearings. In the first hearing, the Committee listened to testimony about the Governor's tax package and various measures to implement it. Today, there will be testimony on a number of measures that were raised by the Finance Committee. Bills of interest to the business community include:

- **SB-1157** An Act Concerning The Restoration Of The Energy Conservation And Load Management Fund. This measure requires repayment of economic recovery revenue bonds be structured to minimize the reduction of funding for the Energy Conservation and Load Management Fund. (CBIA supports)
- **SB-1162** An Act Concerning The Filing Deadline For Certain Property Tax Exemptions. A measure similar to this bill is filed and passed each year. It generally helps individual companies that have been harmed by a missed deadline, and grants them an extension for filing the necessary paperwork. (CBIA supports)
- **HB-6559** An Act Concerning A Municipal Option To Send Municipal Tax Bills Via Electronic Mail. Allows municipalities to send tax bills via electronic mail, but only when the taxpayer has affirmatively indicated their willingness to receive the bill electronically. (CBIA supports)
- **HB-6560** An Act Concerning Disclosure Of Tax Incentives Provided To Businesses. This measure requires DRS to develop a list of every company in the state and indicate any credits, deductions or exemptions they've filed for under their tax return as well as dollars saved as a result of the credit, deduction or exemption. (CBIA strongly opposes)
- **HB-6561** An Act Concerning Sales Taxes Paid By Businesses. Permits businesses to file their tax return on paper or electronically. Currently DRS requires electronic filing of all business tax returns. (CBIA supports)
- **HB-6362** An Act Establishing The Capital Debt Affordability Advisory Committee. This measure creates a new committee of experts to advise the State Bond Committee on the affordability of general obligation bonds as well as other important matters. (CBIA supports)
- **HB-6586** An Act Concerning The Use Of Certain Revenues To Provide Funds For The Budget Reserve Fund, Capital Debt Payments And Pension Payments. This measure creates a dedicated stream of revenue (excess personal income tax as well as capital gains and interest revenues) to help lower certain liabilities and rebuild the state's Rainy Day Fund. (CBIA supports with modifications. We'd like to see all excess revenues go to pay down debt and restore a healthy balance to the Rainy Day Fund.)

At the third Finance hearing, we expect to testify on several bills including those requested by DRS, the unitary tax measure requested by Voices for Children, and the Standard of Proof measure requested by CBIA.

Please contact Bonnie Stewart at Bonnie.Stewart@cbia.com for information regarding spending & taxes.

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