

**Subject:** Monday Morning Group Update  
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## CBIA Monday Morning Group

January 18, 2011

Next meeting – Monday, January 24

**Connecticut Business Day** is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9 – SAVE THE DATE! 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.

**Financial & Credit Issues** (Bonnie Stewart) – The Banks Committee met on Tuesday, Jan. 11, for an organizational meeting. Originally the committee also planned to raise concepts, but after welcome and introductory remarks, Sen. Duff told committee members that the committee would not review concepts until the next meeting.

The Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee will hold a public hearing and vote today on Governor Malloy's appointment of Howard F. Pitkin to continue as Commissioner of the Department of Banking.

Please contact Bonnie Stewart at [Bonnie.Stewart@cbia.com](mailto:Bonnie.Stewart@cbia.com) for information regarding Financial & Credit Issues.

**Commerce** (Louis Bach) – The Commerce Committee met twice last week and held informational hearings. Presenters included the commissioner of the DECD, the president of CDA, the pPresident of CI and the executive director of the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism. No bills were raised, but the Committee will meet again on Thursday, Jan. 20. An agenda is not available at this time.

Please contact Louis Bach at [Louis.Bach@cbia.com](mailto:Louis.Bach@cbia.com) for information regarding Commerce.

**Education** (Louis Bach) – The Education Committee met on Monday, January 10 and raised a number of bill concepts. Among the 18 concepts raised, the committee will be discussing further charter schools, an open school choice program, magnet schools, early childhood education, vocational-technical schools, the academic achievement gap, and strategic planning in state education policy.

The Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee will meet today, Tuesday, January 18. At the meeting the committee will raise concepts. The topics include, in part, workforce development, a strategic plan for higher education, the University of Connecticut Health Center, and Connecticut's manufacturing workforce

Of further note is the fact that Program Review and Investigations is looking at the possibility of raising bills concerning higher education. We'll pay close attention to those matters and report on them should the committee decide to move forward on the issue.

Please contact Louis Bach at [Louis.Bach@cbia.com](mailto:Louis.Bach@cbia.com) for information regarding Education.

**Energy** (Kevin Hennessy)– The committee is meeting Tuesday afternoon to raise concepts and draft proposed bills as committee bills. We're waiting for the substantive language.

Please contact Kevin Hennessy a [Kevin.Hennessy@cbia.com](mailto:Kevin.Hennessy@cbia.com) for information regarding Energy.

**Environment** (Eric Brown) - CBIA's Environmental Policies Council is working with the Legislative Brownfields Working Group and others on developing a significant legislative proposal.

This will be DEP's 3rd try at stream flow regulations, expected to come out at Regulation Review in April or May. The legislature may intercede with modifications to the underlying legislation.

Please contact Eric Brown at [Eric.Brown@cbia.com](mailto:Eric.Brown@cbia.com) for information regarding Transportation.

**Executive & Legislative Appointments** (Bonnie Stewart) - With a new administration comes a slew of appointments as the Governor determines who he wants in key senior positions at state agencies. The Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee will meet today, Tuesday, January 18, and Thursday, January 20, to hear from people recently nominated for some of those positions within the new administration as well as legislative appointments.

For today's meeting, the following appointments are on the agenda:

- Joette Katz to be Commissioner of the Department of Children And Families
- Linda Spoonster Schwartz, to be reappointed as Commissioner of the Department of Veterans' Affairs
- Howard F. Pitkin, to be reappointed as Commissioner of the Department of Banking
- Mitchell M. Fuchs to be a member of the Metro North New Haven Rail Commuter Council
- Nicholas Mullane, II to be a member of the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority Board

On Thursday, January 20, the committee will plan to approve the following appointments:

- Donald D. DeFronzo to be the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services
- Benjamin Barnes to be the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
- Patricia Rehmer to be the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Robert Ward to be an Auditor of Public Accounts
- John Geragosian to be an Auditor of Public Accounts

Please contact Bonnie Stewart at [Bonnie.Stewart@cbia.com](mailto:Bonnie.Stewart@cbia.com) for information regarding Executive & Legislative Appointments.

**GAE** (Kevin Hennessy)– Is not scheduled to meet this week.

Please contact Kevin Hennessy at [Kevin.Hennessy@cbia.com](mailto:Kevin.Hennessy@cbia.com) for information regarding GAE.

**General Law** (Louis Bach) - The General Law Committee met on Tuesday, January 11 for organizational purposes. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 27. Two additional meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, February 1, and Thursday, February 3.

Please contact Louis Bach at [Louis.Bach@cbia.com](mailto:Louis.Bach@cbia.com) for information regarding General Law.

**Healthcare** (Eric George) – The Insurance Committee raised several bills today aimed at implementing the recent federal health reform law. These bills touch on establishing a health insurance exchange for Connecticut (as required under the federal law) and conforming Connecticut's existing insurance laws to comply with the federal law. Since these bills are nothing more than concepts at this time, it's impossible to comment on their substance. We are hopeful that they are crafted in a way that preserves and strengthens our private system of health insurance and protects the jobs represented by the health insurance industry.

On Wednesday, the SustiNet Board of Directors is meeting. The nature and purpose of the meeting is unknown since the Board has already released its healthcare reform recommendations to the legislature. They are pushing for a state-run public option, which is very troubling as it will jeopardize the state's general fund and increase healthcare costs and the state's long term liabilities.

Please contact Eric George at [Eric.George@cbia.com](mailto:Eric.George@cbia.com) for information regarding Healthcare.

**Judiciary** (Kevin Hennessy) – Is not scheduled to meet this week.

Please contact Kevin Hennessy at [Kevin.Hennessy@cbia.com](mailto:Kevin.Hennessy@cbia.com) for information regarding Judiciary.

**Labor** (Kia Murrell)– The Labor Committee raised the concepts of Paid Sick Leave and Captive Audience and voted to draft them as bills last week. In addition to these concepts, the following bills have also been introduced:

Unemployment Compensation

- HB-5040 AAC COMMERCIAL DRIVERS AND UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS. Allows employers to control unemployment compensation costs by discharging commercial drivers who are denied a special operator's permit.
- HB-5041 AAC THE CONTINUATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS WHILE THE RECIPIENT ATTENDS HIGHER EDUCATION CLASSES. Allows eligible individuals to continue to receive unemployment compensation benefits while attempting to improve their marketability through higher education classes.

- HB-5090 AAC REFORMING THE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ACT. Reform the Unemployment Compensation Act by (1) barring the collection of UC by individuals who are not current with child support payments or who are incarcerated, (2) restricting the eligibility of individuals who are fired or voluntarily leave their places of employment, and (3) restricting the eligibility of seasonal workers.

#### Workers' Compensation

- SB-23 AAC RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY OFFSETS UNDER THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT. Retroactively awards an increase in workers' compensation payments to individuals whose payments were offset as a result of receiving Social Security between 1993 and 2006.

#### Jobs Impact Statements

- HB-5042 AAC LEGISLATIVE IMPACT ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE STATE. Requires that every bill, resolution or amendment affecting employment shall be accompanied by a job impact statement including the gain or loss of jobs in the state.

- HB-5121 AAC REQUIRING JOBS IMPACT STATEMENTS ON ALL PROPOSED LEGISLATION. Requires a jobs impact statement on all proposed legislation.

#### Miscellaneous

- HB-5140 AAC THE DEFINITION OF "TEMPORARY HELP SERVICE". Narrows and redefines the term "temporary help service" to mean a person in the business of employing individuals directly for the purpose of furnishing part-time or temporary help to others for a defined period of time with a defined end date.

**Program Review and Investigations Committee** (Eric George) - The Program Review and Investigations Committee met on Monday, January 10, for an organizational meeting as well as to discuss some potential bills. In addition to the bills that will be coming as a result of the three 2010 studies (Assessment of Connecticut's Implementation of E-Government, Higher Education Governance Structure and Connecticut State University System and RBA Pilot Project Study 2010: DOT Project Delivery) the chairs asked that the bills from the 2009 studies that didn't become law be re-raised by the committee. The measures cited as examples included the whistleblower bill and the alignment study bill.

The Chair told everyone that the committee needed to develop between 3 and 6 study topic ideas to discuss for 2011 and asked that committee members submit ideas by Friday, January 21. Less than 6 would be taken up, but the topics at this point were for discussion purposes. Some possible topics that were raised include: dual providers for social services, examining whether shifting more services to nonprofit providers would save money and maintain quality, and an examination of the University of Connecticut and the community colleges to find savings and efficiencies.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 4, to raise bills.

Please contact Kia Murrell at [Kia.Murrell@cbia.com](mailto:Kia.Murrell@cbia.com) for information regarding Labor.

**Spending & Taxes** (Bonnie Stewart) – The Appropriations Committee met on Monday, January 10, for an organizational meeting. After the welcome and introductory remarks, the chairs gave a brief overview of the upcoming budget process. The chairs indicated their plans wait to receive Gov. Malloy's proposed budget, and then the committee would discuss it. The Governor's budget address is scheduled for February 16th.

At this time no firm meetings have been scheduled, but the chairs did go over expectations for sub-committee meetings and a tentative schedule for the budget public hearings in February.

The Finance Committee met for an organizational meeting on Monday, January 10. After welcome and introductory remarks, the chairs told committee members they'd be notified later of the next meeting; nothing has been scheduled at this time.

As with the Appropriations Committee, we expect little to happen until after the Governor's budget address in mid February.

Please contact Bonnie Stewart at [Bonnie.Stewart@cbia.com](mailto:Bonnie.Stewart@cbia.com) for information regarding Spending & Taxes.