

Subject: Monday Morning Group Minutes
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CBIA Monday Morning Group

January 31, 2011

Next meeting – Monday, February 7

We are anticipating a very slow week at the LOB this week. With a storm predicted to begin on Tuesday morning and run through Thursday, we assume most meetings at the LOB on those days will be rescheduled for other days.

Banks (Bonnie Stewart) - The Banks Committee is meeting Tuesday at 1:00 PM. Their agenda isn't available yet. This meeting may be rescheduled if the storm that is predicted to begin on Tuesday morning creates poor road conditions.

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

Commerce (Louis Bach)– Thursday at 1 p.m. the Commerce Committee will have a Public Hearing which will cover **SB-842**, AA Requiring Job Impact Statements on Legislation Affecting Employment in the State. The bill would require that any new legislation with the potential to affect employment in the state carry an "impact statement" that identifies (1) the potential effect on unemployment and (2) any additional costs to employers per employee created by the bill. While this bill could well be a positive measure from our standpoint, it is unlikely, however, that brief "impact statements" would accurately forecast the effect of a single variable piece of legislation on a complex job market. Stay tuned!

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

Education (Louis Bach) – There is a Higher Education Committee meeting tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. followed by a public hearing in 1E. The hearing covers bills we are not tracking. General Law will meet later tomorrow afternoon and Education meets on Wednesday.

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

Energy (Kevin Hennessy)– The Energy & Technology committee has started work on SB-1 – it will be a reintroduction of last year's emergency-certified **SB-493**. Once the bill is drafted, the committee plans to have a public hearing on it. Nothing is scheduled yet.

The committee's first hearing is scheduled for Thursday. On the agenda are issues regarding the moratorium on wind projects and telecommunication issues.

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

Environment (Eric Brown) - Our focus this week in the Environment Committee is on DEP permitting and enforcement. **SB-60**, AAC The Enforcement And Permitting Duties Of The Department Of Environmental Protection, which is the subject of a public hearing today, raises the issue in the context of staffing needs but also provides an important opportunity to explore new, more innovative, effective and efficient strategies for advancing the state's environmental and economic goals.

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

Healthcare (Eric George) – Due to the weather, the Insurance committee meeting last Thursday was postponed, putting many bills that will raise healthcare costs on this Thursday's agenda:

SB-10, **SB-12**, **SB-17** and **SB-21** all increase healthcare costs by either creating a new (or expanding an existing) healthcare mandate, or shift healthcare costs by prohibiting copayments for preventive care services. Finally, **SB-32** and **SB-34** prohibit certain offsets in disability policies, increasing the cost of these policies and influencing employers not to offer them as benefits to their employees.

CBIA is putting together a Web Seminar on SustiNet on February 16, 10 am for our insurance brokers, but if anyone from MMG would like to participate please let Eric George know.

The SustiNet bill has been raised, but there is currently no language or hearing scheduled.

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

Judiciary (Kevin Hennessy)– The Judiciary Committee had a hearing last week to renominate judges. No other actions are planned.

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

Labor (Kia Murrell)– This week the Labor Committee will be holding a hearing on HB-5460 AAC Captive Audience meetings. Last week CBIA sent out a legislative alert to apprise members of the hearing. So far we have roughly 30 letters of testimony opposing the measure. Our goal is to fill the JF report with as much opposition as possible, so please let us know if you would like to submit testimony; we can assist you.

In addition to the hearing this week, on Tuesday the Committee will vote to draft as committee bills various proposals, including:

- **SB-361** AAC The use of credit scores in hiring decisions
- **HB-5461** AAC Protection for Employees who breastfeed or express breast milk in the workplace
- AAC Elimination of state financial assistance for companies that reduce retirement benefits

On Thursday, the Labor Committee will hold an informational forum on unemployment compensation. Given the insolvent state of the fund, this forum may be worthwhile for legislators to learn more about it. CBIA is hosting a meeting with business associations on the same topic on Wednesday at 9 am. Contact us if you would like to attend.

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

Planning & Development (Bonnie Stewart) - In addition to the measures mentioned under the state spending and tax section, the Planning and Development Committee will also vote to hold a subject matter public hearing on Proposed **SB-737** AAC Community Economic Development.

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

Spending & Taxes (Bonnie Stewart) – Neither the Finance nor the Appropriations committee is meeting this week. However, the Bond Commission will meet on Wednesday at 10:30 AM. We expect it to be a quiet week on the budget and tax front as lawmakers wait for the Governor to give his budget address on Wednesday, February 16.

Although the Finance and Appropriations Committee aren't meeting, the Planning and Development Committee will meet today, Monday, January 31 at 1:00 PM . At the meeting the committee members plan to vote to hold a subject matter public hearing on several financial measures including: Proposed **HB-5928** AA Authorizing Regional Assets Investments, and Proposed **HB-6100** AAC Regional Property Tax Revenue Sharing.

They are also expected to vote to draft the following measures as Committee Bills: Proposed **HB-6107** AA Modifying Certain State Grants In Lieu Of Taxes And Authorizing The Assessment Of Property Owned By Universities And Hospitals, and Proposed **HB-6108** AAC Incentives For Regional Collaboration And Cost Efficiencies.

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

Transportation (Eric Brown) - We expect a public hearing to be scheduled soon on the issue of reinstating tolls in CT. CBIA is likely to urge caution in this area but take a firm position that any revenues raised from tolling be unalterably dedicated to transportation projects.

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](#)," CBI's public policy blog.

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