

Joint Committee on Health Care Delivery and Financing

Senator Robert J. Garagiola, Senate Chairman
Delegate Dan K. Morhaim, House Chairman

2008 Interim Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Thursday, June 12	1:00 p.m.	Health Care Overview: Briefing on recent health care legislation, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's agenda and issues, including federal policies on Medicaid and Medicare, and CareFirst's agenda.
September	TBD	Small Group Market: Briefing on the Maryland Health Care Commission Small Group Market Reform's report, including perspectives from business representatives, carriers, brokers, and consumers.
October	TBD	Expanding Access to Children/Dependents: Briefing on existing State public programs and outreach efforts, other State experiences for children and dependent coverage, children's health coverage in the State and issues relating to an individual child health insurance mandate.
November	TBD	Long-Term Care and End-of-Life Issues: Briefing on long term care issues, advanced directives, progress on Senate Bill 682/House Bill 1452 Medical Assistance Program – Long-Term Care Eligibility – Consolidation Plan, and Physician Reimbursement Task Force report. At this meeting, the committee will also plan for any proposed legislation.



MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
COMMITTEE ON UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE OVERSIGHT
May 28, 2008

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., Co-chairman
The Honorable Michael E. Busch, Co-chairman
Members of the Legislative Policy Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Joint Committee on Unemployment Insurance Oversight intends to hold two meetings during the 2008 interim. Most likely, the committee's proposed schedule will include a meeting in November and a meeting in December. The committee also intends to use a subcommittee to meet on certain issues and report back to the committee.

The committee was created pursuant to Chapters 50 and 51 of 2007 to continue the work of the Committee on Unemployment Insurance Oversight, which had expired at the end of 2006, and its predecessor, the Unemployment Insurance Funding Task Force. The new joint committee expires at the end of 2010.

The committee may review the following issues:

- status of the 2005 reform to the unemployment insurance tax system (replacement of the current single schedule of experience tax rates and the flat-rated surcharge system with an overall more experienced rated system);
- status of the balance of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund and its adequacy in an economic downturn;
- further consideration of providing benefits to part-time workers (Senate Bill 328/House Bill 627 of 2008 – both failed). The committee supported this proposal last interim, but may hold further discussion of the impact an economic downturn may have in employers moving toward offering part-time employment, instead of full-time employment;
- consideration of changes to several benefit provisions as a unified legislative package (*i.e.*, allowing variable duration for the receipt of benefits, rather than the current structure of a fixed 26-week period *and* phasing in an increase of the maximum weekly benefit to an amount that is a specified percentage of the average weekly wage) – Senate Bill 982 of 2008 (failed) would have allowed variable duration, while House Bill 1580 of 2008 (failed) would have increased the benefit amount;

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., Co-Chairman
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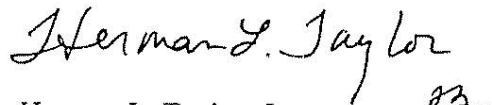
- consideration of a proposal to allow exemptions for charging employers for laid off employees based on acts of God (*i.e.*, fire causing an employer to layoff employees for a certain period of time while rebuilding);
- impact of misclassification of workers as independent contractors (1099 misclassification) – House Bill 70 of 2008 (withdrawn) and House Bill 1590 (failed) would have prohibited employers from misclassifying employees as independent contractors;
- examination of the general rule for requiring employers to provide coverage to certain persons who are not direct employees, as compared to other states (proposals during the 2008 session would have exempted writer workshop instructors, music teachers teaching at music stores (House Bill 1372 of 2008 - failed), and seamstresses); and
- consideration of whether the time limit under current law (15 days) to file an appeal of a hearing examiner's decision regarding a claim is adequate, as compared to other states.

Please contact one of us or the committee staff, Tami Burt or Ann Marie Maloney, at (410) 946-5530, if you have questions concerning this schedule.

Sincerely,



Thomas McLain Middleton
Senate Chair



Herman L. Taylor, Jr.
House Chair

TMM:HLT/TDB/ncs

cc: Mr. Karl Aro
Mr. Warren Deschenaux
Ms. Lynne Porter
Mr. Vicki Gruber
Mr. John Favazza
Ms. Kristin Jones



MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFIT AND INSURANCE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

May 21, 2008

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., Co-chairman
The Honorable Michael E. Busch, Co-chairman
Members of the Legislative Policy Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen:

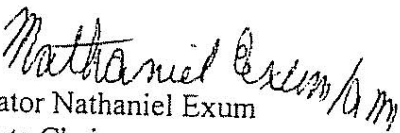
The Workers' Compensation Benefit and Insurance Oversight Committee will hold two meetings during the 2008 interim. The committee's proposed schedule will include a meeting in November and a meeting in December. At this time, the committee has identified a few issues to review at these meetings.

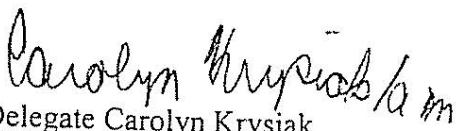
These issues may include: (1) agency responsibility for proactive identification of employers that do not have workers' compensation coverage, as required by law – this issue was raised previously by legislative auditors and has not been resolved; (2) cost effectiveness of interpreter services for workers' compensation hearings (report required by the *Joint Chairmen's Report*); and (3) comparison of the benefits provided by the workers' compensation system against those that would be provided through a tort remedy.

The committee will also examine the report required by Senate Bill 679 of 2008 that directs the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) to study the feasibility of subjecting the Injured Workers' Insurance Fund to MIA's ratemaking authority. Further, the committee will hear annual reports from selected agencies with oversight over workers' compensation and will consider requesting the Department of Budget and Management to monitor the costs of Chapter 541 of 2008, which provided medical-only coverage for State volunteers.

Please contact one of us or the committee staff, Tami Burt or Ann Marie Maloney, at (410) 946-5530, if you have questions concerning this schedule.

Sincerely,


Senator Nathaniel Exum
Senate Chair


Delegate Carolyn Krysiak
House Chair

NE:CK/AMM/ncs