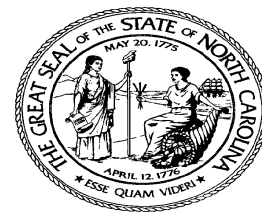


LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



EMPLOYERS COALITION OF NORTH CAROLINA

resources for an informed workplace and democracy



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Featured Company

For over fifty years, MGM Transport Corp. has provided superior services to the home furnishings industry. The company has evolved from a traditional trucking organization to a full-service transportation and logistics operation.

MGM continues to expand with over 450 committed employees located in High Point, NC; Martinsville and Galax, VA; as well as their facilities in New Jersey, Massachusetts, and California. In 2005, MGM opened a 500,000 sq. foot facility in Eden, NC which provides Warehousing, Distribution, and light assembly work.

Workers' Compensation reform is an important issue for this growing company as we provide excellent jobs with benefits in North Carolina. MGM maintains its support of CAI's legislative advocacy efforts as they continue their pursuit to make this state a viable place to live and work.

New Laws Effective in January

•SB 319 Workers' Comp. Self-Insurance Security

•HB 1779 Property Tax Paid With Vehicle Registration

Go to www.ncleg.net to review the bills

Small Business Health Insurance

For the past two months, the "House Select Committee on Health Care - Cost of Health Care and Health Insurance Subcommittee" has been researching the rising cost of small business health insurance in North Carolina. At the first meeting, three bills from the 2005 session were discussed: HB20 Health Insurance Credit/Minimum Wage, HB1535 Establish NC Health Insurance Risk Pool and SB255 Healthy North Carolina.

At the second meeting, Gregg Thompson, Executive Director for the NFIB (National Federation of Independent Business), shared that health insurance was the number one issue for small business. A hospital CEO shared his hospital's attempt to offer lower cost small business health insurance and his problems with the business community's lack of support for the product. Due to the failure of this insurance offering's ability to generate interest, the CEO now believes that **companies should be mandated to provide health insurance**. The president of a Randolph County manufacturer shared his company's success at lowering healthcare costs through employing an onsite nurse and pursuing an aggressive program to improve employee health.

Rep. Hugh Holliman is Co-Chair of the committee and the primary bill sponsor of HB 20 Health Insurance Credit bill. There is a good chance the tax credit concept will be endorsed by the committee and recommended for consideration during the legislative short session beginning this May.

Workers' Comp Revving Up and We Need Your Help!

Last month, we reported that there was no activity in the appointment of the Workers' Compensation Committee authorized by HB99 last session. There is good news: The Speaker has made his appointments and the President Pro-Tem's office is close to completing theirs. Next month we will give you a list of the appointees.

Now the real work begins. Last year, the trial lawyers inundated the General Assembly with workers' comp horror stories. They selectively quoted statistics claiming North Carolina has some of the lowest workers' comp rates in the country, despite the dramatic increases experienced by our members. Without good examples on unreasonable workers' comp cases and increased costs, we will have a difficult time convincing the legislature to pass meaningful reform.

Please go to www.ecnc.us and review the "Request for Examples" sent to ECNC supporters. This request describes the issues being reviewed by the committee and the examples needed. Then send Jennifer your examples by email so we can share your issues with this committee and the legislature. If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Edwards with ECNC at 919/713-5272 or jedwards@ecnc.us.

