

# Capitol Matters

Public policy news and information for your business or industry

## Legislature completes work Governor issues last two vetoes

On July 12, Gov. Dannel P. Malloy vetoed [Senate Bill 1067](#), which would have required medical spa facilities to employ or contract with a physician as the establishment's medical director to perform an initial assessment of a person before she can undergo a cosmetic medical procedure at the facility.



The bill may have “unduly burden[ed] small businesses,” the Governor said in

his [veto message](#).

Also the same day, the Governor rejected [HB 6658](#), which would have voided noncompete agreements imposed on an employee as a condition of (see **Governor issues last two vetoes** on page 3)

*Capitol Matters is published periodically for clients and friends of [Matthew Hallisey Government Affairs, LLC](#), a government relations and lobbying firm in Glastonbury, Conn. For more information contact Matthew Hallisey at 860-978-7346, or visit [www.mphconsultingct.com](http://www.mphconsultingct.com).*

## Health Care

### Employers still need to act in wake of ObamaCare delay

On July 2, the [IRS announced](#) a one-year delay in the employer mandate provision of the Affordable Care Act. But that doesn't mean employers should sit back and wait until next fall to figure out how they're going to deal with the new health care law, according to [Inc. Magazine](#).

#### Notice to employees

The mandate applies only to businesses with 50 or more full-time employees. But regardless of the size of your workforce, if your company makes \$500,000 or more in annual revenue, employers are still required, by Oct. 1 of this year, to distribute written notice to all employees informing them of the existence of new state health-insurance exchanges. The notice must include the following: the services offered by the exchanges; the employee's potential eligibility to receive subsidized coverage on the exchange if employer-provided coverage (see **Employers need to act** on page 2)

## Labor

### Unemployment insurance assessments to be mailed in August

On Aug. 1, employers conducting business in Connecticut will be billed a 'special assessment' for the third consecutive year in order to pay the interest due on the federal loan to repay funds borrowed to pay workers filing claims for weekly unemployment insurance benefits, the state Department of Labor said in an [Employer Information Notice](#).

The assessment, which is based on the taxable wages paid by the employer for the one-year period ending the previous June 30, is approximately \$18 million. (see **Unemployment insurance assessments** on page 3)

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## Employers need to act

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is inadequate; and the fact that employees may lose any employer health-premium contributions if they opt to buy an individual policy instead.

For more information on notice requirements and model notices, see the U.S. Department of Labor's [guidance on notice to employees of coverage options](#) under ACA.

Also remaining in place, according to the [Society for Human Resource Management](#), are ACA's plan design and fee requirements.



## Next steps

According to an [alert from law firm Nixon Peabody LLP](#), employers may want to voluntarily comply with the new IRS reporting requirements; provide additional information and assistance to their uninsured employees regarding enrolling for insurance; and

continue to develop an implementation timeline, preparing for those requirements that are still scheduled to go into effect in or before 2014, and for full implementation of the employer coverage mandate by 2015. 

administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; and Thomas Perez, Secretary of Labor. The President nominated McCarthy in March; she served as assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation and commissioner of Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection from 2004 to 2009. Mark Pearce has been approved by committee for the National Labor Relations Board; the President withdrew two labor-backed nominees to the agency.

## 'No Budget, No Pay'...no way

Members of Congress would not be paid in any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a budget and passed regular appropriations bills, under [H.R. 310, the No Budget, No Pay Act](#). The bill, which probably stands little chance of passage, is sponsored by Rep. Jim Himes (D-4th Dist.), among others.

## Fascinating facts about the U.S. Constitution

- The word "democracy" does not appear once in the Constitution.
- Because of his poor health, Benjamin Franklin needed help to sign the Constitution. As he did so, tears streamed down his face.
- Thomas Jefferson did not sign the Constitution. He was in France during the Convention, where he served as the U.S. minister.
- Patrick Henry was elected as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, but declined, because he "smelt a rat."
- Four of the signers of the Constitution were born in Ireland.

- from [ConstitutionFacts.com](#)

## U.S. Senate confirms Obama nominees

The Senate confirmed several controversial nominations of President Obama, averting a change in rules that would have prevented the minority party from filibustering executive branch nominees.

[Confirmed by the Senate](#) as part of the deal were: Richard Cordray, Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; Gina McCarthy,



## Unemployment insurance assessments

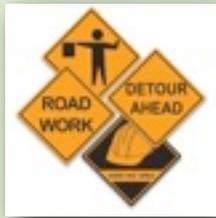
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This equates to an approximate cost of \$1 per thousand dollars of taxable payroll, or about \$15 per full time employee. For example, an employer with 10 workers can expect to receive an August 2013 assessment of approximately \$150. For more information, DOL has published answers to [frequently asked questions](#).

## Infrastructure funding Bond commission to fund capital improvement projects

Several capital improvement and infrastructure projects are slated to be funded by the State Bond Commission at its meeting scheduled for Fri., Jul. 26. The [meeting agenda](#)

includes borrowing more than \$523 million for ConnDOT's annual transportation infrastructure program, \$19 million to finance various business expansion and retention projects for the Dept. of Economic and Community Development, and about \$5 million for specific earmarked projects.



## Governor issues last two vetoes

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his continued employment for an employer acquired by or merged with another employer, unless before entering into the agreement, the employer provides the employee with a written copy of the agreement and time to consider it. The bill could have produced “legal uncertainty and ambiguity in the event of merger or acquisition”, the Governor said in his [veto message](#).

Meanwhile, the General Assembly reconvened for a special trailer, or veto, session, on Mon., July 22 to consider re-passing the eight bills of the 2013 legislative session vetoed by the Governor. Legislators declined to override any vetoed bills.



## Energy and environment Renewable energy project proposals due

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has issued a [Request for Proposals for Long Term Energy Contracts](#) from solar, wind, biomass and other Class I renewable energy projects in the New England region.

Bids, which are due to the agency by Aug. 5, 2013, are designed for the state to lock in lower

energy prices while growing the region’s supply of clean energy.

The [RFP](#) is open to Class I energy projects in New England built this year. The state is seeking contracts for about 174 megawatts of clean energy projects, such as solar panels, wind turbines, hydropower dams or geothermal systems, which will amount to about 4% of the state's energy use. The contracts could last up to 20 years.



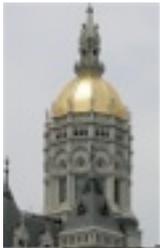
## Texting while driving to get more expensive

Beginning Oct. 1, 2013, the fine for violating the ban on driving while operating a cell phone without a hands-free device, texting, or engaging in any activity that interferes with a vehicle's safe operation will increase. Also, for the first time since the law was enacted in 2005, drivers who engage in such activities while the vehicle is temporarily stationary due to traffic, road conditions or a traffic signal, will have violated [Public Act 13-277](#).



For a first violation, the fine increases from \$125 to \$150; for a second violation, it increases from \$250 to \$300; and for third and subsequent violations, it increases from \$400 to \$500. [Public Act 13-271](#) requires that the record of such a violation appear in the violator's driving history or motor vehicle record and be made available to motor vehicle insurers.

The bill also requires the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to assess at least one point on the motor vehicle record of a driver who violates the distracted driving law.



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