



## Weekly Policy Highlights

For week ending January 15, 2010

### Key Committee Codes:

B&T = Senate Budget and Taxation

EHEA = Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs

FIN = Senate Finance Committee

JPR = Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

APR = House Appropriations

ECM = House Economic Matters

ENV = House Environmental Matters

HGO = House Health & Government Operations

JUD = House Judiciary Committee

All bills can be reviewed under the General Assembly Website at [www.mlis.state.md.us](http://www.mlis.state.md.us) by clicking "Bill Information and Status". Type the bill number by SB or HB plus the bill number (e.g., SB101 or HB9).

### **2010 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION NEWS --**

The 2010 General Assembly convened at 12:00 PM on Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. Only a small number of bills have been introduced. The Governor's proposed FY2011 budget will be introduced next week on Wednesday January 20<sup>th</sup>. The following briefings have been scheduled:

1. Briefing on Federal Health Care Reform
  - January 19<sup>th</sup> 3:00 B&T
  - January 19<sup>th</sup> 1:00 HGO
  - January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1:00 APP
2. Briefing on the Status of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund and System
  - January 19<sup>th</sup>: 1:00 FIN
3. Briefing on Long-Term Care Issues
  - January 19<sup>th</sup>: 11:00 HGO (Healthcare Delivery System (HB113) and Electronic Monitoring in NHs and AL)

- NOTE: DHMH is beginning to convene the workgroup mandated by HB113. Invite letters are being sent out. LifeSpan and MAADS will both be receiving invite letters.
  - NOTE: There was supposed to be a hearing on the CCRC industry but it was taken off the schedule.
  - January 21<sup>st</sup>: 1:00 APP HHR Subcommittee (Provider Rate Setting Process)
    - NOTE: Briefing affects all Medicaid providers as well as mental health providers, DD providers, etc.
  - January 26<sup>th</sup>: 1:00 FIN (Nursing Homes: Eligibility Process, Pay for Performance and the Fiscal Outlook).
4. Fiscal Briefing on the FY2011 Proposed Budget
- January 25<sup>th</sup>: 3:00 PM B&T and APP

**INTRODUCED BILLS:**

<b>Affected Industry</b>	<b>Business Bills</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>SB106/HB92 Labor and Employment – Job Creation and Recovery Tax Credit.</b> Bill Text Not Yet Available.
<b>All</b>	<b>SB107/HB91 Labor and Employment – Unemployment Insurance – Modernization and Tax Relief Act.</b> <u>Hearing Date: 1/26 3:00 FIN.</u> This is a Governor’s emergency bill. The preamble of the bill states that the Fund’s solvency is at risk through 2010. \$126.8 million is available from the federal government if Maryland meets certain modernization incentives by September 30, 2011. This bill adopts an alternative base period, adjusting how the state determines a claimant’s monetary eligibility and employer charges. Base period would include the 4 most recently completed calendar quarters immediately preceding the start of the benefit year only if the individual applying doesn’t qualify under existing benefits. The bill also makes alterations to the definition of part-time worker that passed last Session; authorizes a one-year shift from Table F to Table E; reduces the interest rate of 1.5% to 1% per month or part of the month from the date a contribution or reimbursement payment is due and unpaid; and extends benefits for 26-weeks for individuals enrolled in training programs if the individual is separated from employment in a “declining” occupation and being trained in a “demand” occupation. <b>NOTE:</b> The Maryland Chamber of Commerce opposes this bill on the basis that the short-term relief is outweighed by the long-term liabilities.
<b>All</b>	<b>SB110 Labor and Employment – Job and Financial Privacy Protection Act.</b> Bill Text Not Yet Available.

<b>Affected Industry</b>	<b>Health Care Bills</b>
None	None

Questions regarding information contained in this document should be directed to Danna Kauffman, Vice President of Public Policy, Lifespan Network at [dkauffman@lifespan-network.org](mailto:dkauffman@lifespan-network.org).