

Budgetary matters continue to be at the forefront of this legislative session. The House and Senate leadership have suggested that the first draft of the budget will be available on June 2. Neither House Insurance nor Senate Commerce have met this session, but I do expect committees other than Appropriations to begin meeting next week. Two bills of interest were filed this week and they are as follows:

HB 2404 - Increase LTD Tax Credit. This legislation would increase the tax credit for long term care insurance, which is now 15% of premium not to exceed \$350, to 75% not to exceed \$1,000.

HB 2335 - Extend Small Business Health Benefits Credits. This legislation would continue the effective sunset of this tax credit to 2014. The credit is now set to expire next year.

HB 2369 - Liability Protection/Private Organizations/Emergency. This bill is one of several which would provide protection from liability for those responding to emergencies and disasters. I bring this bill to your attention simply because it is in the nature of tort reform, an area of continuing interest for many of you.

HB 2415 - Would set the insurance regulatory fee for 2008 at 5.5%. This represents a continuation of last year's fee.

We will stay in touch as the session continues, and look forward to conferring with you about issues and objectives.

I hope your Memorial Day weekend is a good one.

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