



Greetings!

During the month of June, LobbyIt met with Senate HELP Committee to discuss the future of CTE legislation.



Stakeholder Activity

Meeting with Senate HELP Committee

LobbyIt sat down with Senate HELP staffer Alec Hinojosa to discuss the status of CTE legislation during the 115th Congress. This month, the House of Representatives successfully passed CTE legislation out of the chamber. Now that the bill has been sent to the Senate, the pressure is on for the more powerful chamber to act. While both the Senate remains equally as committed

to passing CTE legislation this Congress, there are still a few notable differences between the Senate and House approach to the bill that could ultimately stall movement.

Firstly, similar to last year, Mr. Hinojosa reiterated that we are likely to see the same hang-ups from the 114th Congress, namely the reach of the Secretary's authority and the formula to calculate funding for the states. While the Senate knows there will need to be formulaic changes to the formula, they are more cautious to overhaul the formula in a manner that would cause more rural states to lose funding.

Additionally, Mr. Hinojosa noted that there needs to be productive discussions between GOP and Democratic members and that currently, the members are not on the same page. That being said, he strongly urged stakeholders to put pressure on members on both sides of the aisle because bandwidth to cover education issues is tight at the moment. The Senate HELP committee's jurisdiction covers a decent portion of healthcare reform taking place this Congress, and, without external pressure, has the potential to overshadow issues such as CTE.

LobbyIt gauged committee interest in potentially putting CTE language in a larger jobs package, should one move this Congress, and Mr. Hinojosa agreed that could potentially happen. At the same time, given the fact that the CTE bill is so bipartisan, he is hopeful it will move on its own.

LobbyIt also suggested that language be tied in to CTE language that would benefit the marina industry, and Mr. Hinojosa was open to this idea as well. He encouraged LobbyIt and AMI to present him with legislative language that he can show to committee staff. Additionally, Mr. Hinojosa was also very receptive to the idea that the CTE caucus host a trade skills briefing so showcase the various types of industries that would benefit from CTE legislation, including the marina industry.

Moving forward, LobbyIt looks forward to working with AMI to determine how to best incorporate legislative language into the CTE bill to elevate the marina industry and helping close the skills gap.



Legislative/Regulatory Activity

H.R. 419 - Promote Workforce Development for the Advancement of Manufacturers Act of 2017

Representative Brenda L. Lawrence (D-MI) introduced the Promote Workforce Development for the Advancement of Manufacturers Act of 2017 on January 10, 2017. On January 10, 2017, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. The bill does not yet have any cosponsors.

This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow manufacturing employers located in the United States to receive a business-related tax credit for the manufacturing training expenses of their employees. The definition of "manufacturing training expenses" includes related course work, certification testing, and essential skill acquisition.

S.85 - Restoring Access to Medication Act of 2017

Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS) introduced the Restoring Access to Medication Act of 2017 on January 10, 2017. On January 10, 2017, the bill was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. Senators Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) are currently cosponsors to the bill.

This bill repeals provisions of the Internal Revenue code that were added by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that limit payments for medications from health and medical savings accounts and health flexible spending arrangements to only prescription drugs or insulin. This allows distributions from such accounts for over-the-counter drugs.

Related Bills: H.R.394 - Restoring Access to Medication Act of 2017

H.R. 25 - Fair Tax Act of 2017

Representative Bob Woodall (R-GA) introduced the Fair Tax Act of 2017 on January 3, 2017. On January 3, 2017, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. The bill currently has 35 cosponsors.

This bill proposes a national sales tax on the use or consumption in the United States of taxable property or services in lieu of the current income and corporate income tax, employment and self-employment taxes, and estate and gift taxes. The rate of the sales tax will be 23% in 2019 with adjustments to the rate in subsequent years. There are exemptions from the tax for used and intangible property or services purchased for business, export, or investment purposes, and for state government functions.

Under the bill, family members who are lawful U.S. residents receive a monthly sales tax rebate (Family Consumption Allowance) based upon criteria related to family size and poverty guidelines.

The states have the responsibility of administering, collecting, and remitting the sales tax to the treasury.

Tax revenues are to be allocated among:

- (1) the general revenue;
- (2) the old-age and survivors insurance trust fund;
- (3) the disability and insurance trust fund;
- (4) the hospital insurance trust fund; and
- (5) the federal supplementary medical insurance trust fund.

No funding is authorized for the Internal Revenue Service after FY2021.

The bill terminates the national sales tax if the Sixteenth Amendment (authorizing income tax) is not repealed within 7 years after the enactment of this bill.

Related Bills: S.18 - Fair Tax Act of 2017

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Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS) introduced the Fair Tax Act of 2017 on January 3, 2017. On January 3, 2017, the bill was read twice and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. The bill currently has four cosponsors.

This bill proposes a national sales tax on the use or consumption in the United States of taxable property or services in lieu of the current income and corporate income tax, employment and self-employment taxes, and estate and gift taxes. The rate of the sales tax will be 23% in 2019 with adjustments to the rate in subsequent years. There are exemptions from the tax for used and intangible property or services purchased for business, export, or investment purposes, and for state government functions.

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Related Bills: H.R. 25 - FairTax Act of 2017

H.R.933 - Employee Empowerment Act

Representative Keith Ellison (D-MN) introduced the Employee Empowerment Act on February 7th, 2017. On February 7th, 2017 it was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce and the Committee on the Judiciary. On March 9th, 2017 it was referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice. Representative John Lewis (D-GA) cosponsors the bill.

This bill strengthens the current protections available under the National Labor Relations Act by providing a private right of action for certain violations of such Act. It allows employees to bring civil action in a district court for the unfair labor practices.

H.R.958 - Wasteful EPA Protections Elimination Act

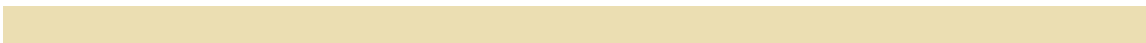
Representative Sam Johnson (R-TX) introduced the Wasteful EPA Protections Elimination Act on February 7th, 2017. On February 7th, 2017 the bill was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Agriculture, and the Committee on Science, Space and Technology. On February 8th, 2017 the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Resources and Environment. The bill currently has no cosponsors.

This bill terminates all existing grant programs of the EPA, its National Clean Diesel Campaign, and its environmental justice programs. The EPA may not establish new grant programs. Federal funds may not be used by the EPA:

- (1) to implement any ozone standard after this bill's enactment;
- (2) to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from mobile sources, or from fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units;
- (3) for the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program, Climate Resilience Fund, Climate Resilience Evaluation Awareness Tool, Green Infrastructure Program, Climate Ready Water Utilities Initiative; or
- (4) for climate research at the EPA's office of Research or Development.

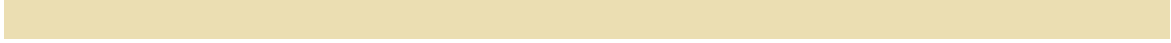
The EPA must:

- (1) discontinue operation and maintenance of its field offices and activities carried out through those offices; and
- (2) dispose of or lease any underutilized property.



Until next month,

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