



# The Ohio SHRM State Council *Monthly Legislative Report*



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SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2013

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## TOP HR NEWS IN OHIO

### *State & National Unemployment Numbers for August-September 2013*

After months of running below the national unemployment rate, the August unemployment numbers released by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) recently showed Ohio's unemployment rate is now tied with the national rate at 7.3 percent as the state lost the second most jobs in the nation for the month. According to ODJFS, Ohio lost 8,200 jobs over the month, and there were 3,000 more workers on the unemployment rolls in the state. In the past 12 months, the number of unemployed workers in Ohio has increased from 9,000 to 12,000.

According to the US Department of Labor, unemployment fell to 7.2 percent in September, down from 7.3 percent in August.

### *Federal Unemployment Tax Expected to Increase in 2014*

Since unemployment claims spiked in 2009, Ohio's state unemployment insurance (UI) trust fund has been insolvent, requiring the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services to use federal loan funds to pay unemployment benefits. This deficit has led to a current Ohio UI debt owed to the federal government of over \$1.5 billion, placing it 4<sup>th</sup> highest in the country (see Ohio UI Trust Fund Balance Chart). Ohio would significantly improve its solvency position by repaying this debt quickly, in order to avoid future FUTA tax increases on employers and additional interest payments. Taking no action will result in a series of increases in the rates to be paid by employers under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

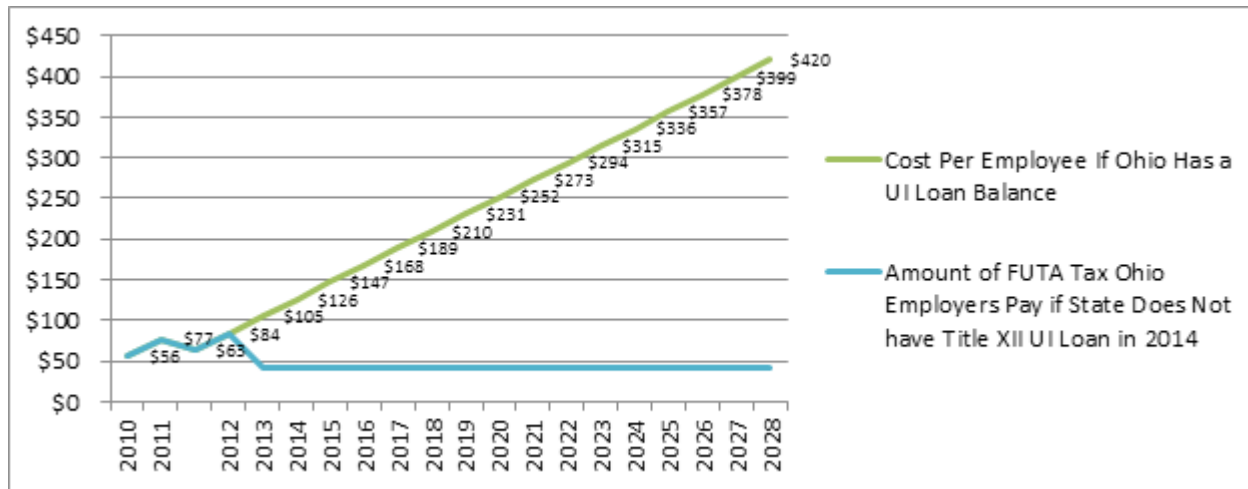
As long as Ohio continues to have outstanding debt, the FUTA tax increases will continue to trigger under federal law. Based on continued negative balances in the state UI trust fund as of November 10, employers in Ohio are subject to a loss of FUTA offset credits of 0.3%, increasing the net Federal Unemployment Tax rate to be paid in January each year. The base amount of FUTA tax due by all employers is 0.6% of the first \$7,000 (or \$42 per employee) by approximately \$21 per employee. Increases will be greater on a percentage basis for employers with the lowest state UI experience rates. To date, employers have paid 1.2% in 2013 (or \$84 per employee). Unless the full \$1.5 Billion UI debt is paid before December 31, 2013, Ohio employers should expect to pay 1.5% in 2014 (or \$105 per employee)(see FUTA Offset Credit Reduction - Tax Rate Increase Chart).

In addition to automatically increasing FUTA taxes, federal law requires that states pay interest on outstanding loans, and repayment of interest must be made from sources other than the state UI tax. Ohio is obligated to pay over \$70 million in interest on loans from the federal government as of September 30, 2013. The costs of failing to immediately address UI Solvency are significant in the form of increased federal unemployment taxes that will continue to increase each year that the outstanding loan is not repaid, and continued interest charges incurred by the state.

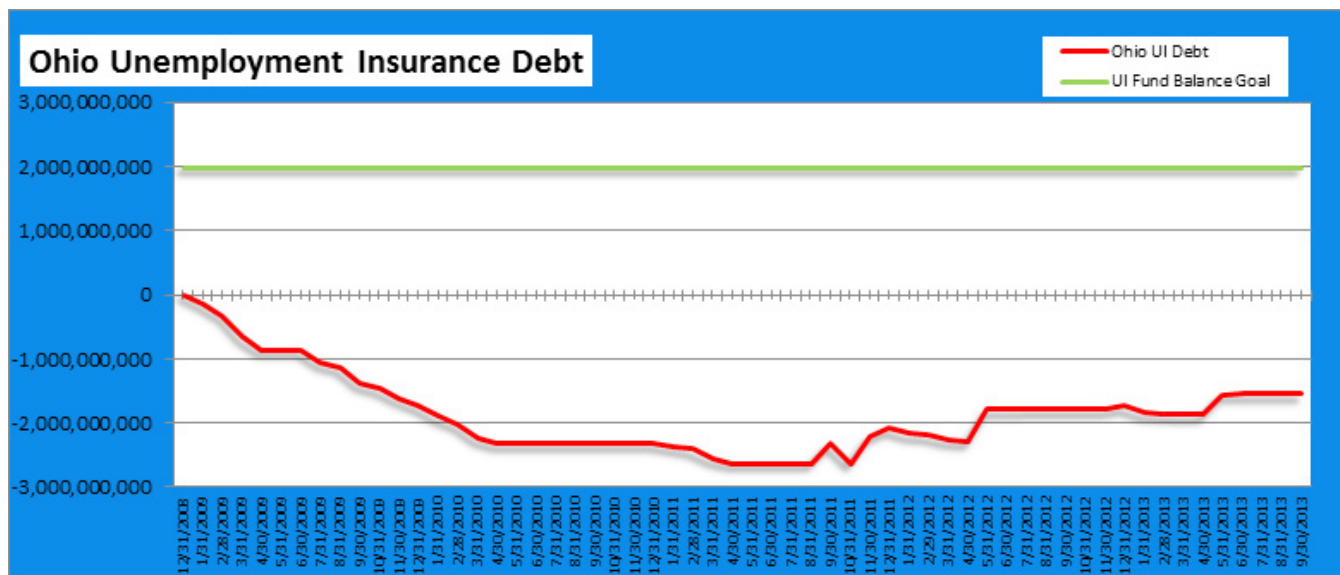


## TOP HR NEWS IN OHIO

FUTA Offset Credit Reduction - Tax Rate Increase Chart



Ohio UI Trust Fund Balance Chart





## TOP HR NEWS IN OHIO

### *Ohio Minimum Wage Set to Increase in January 2014*

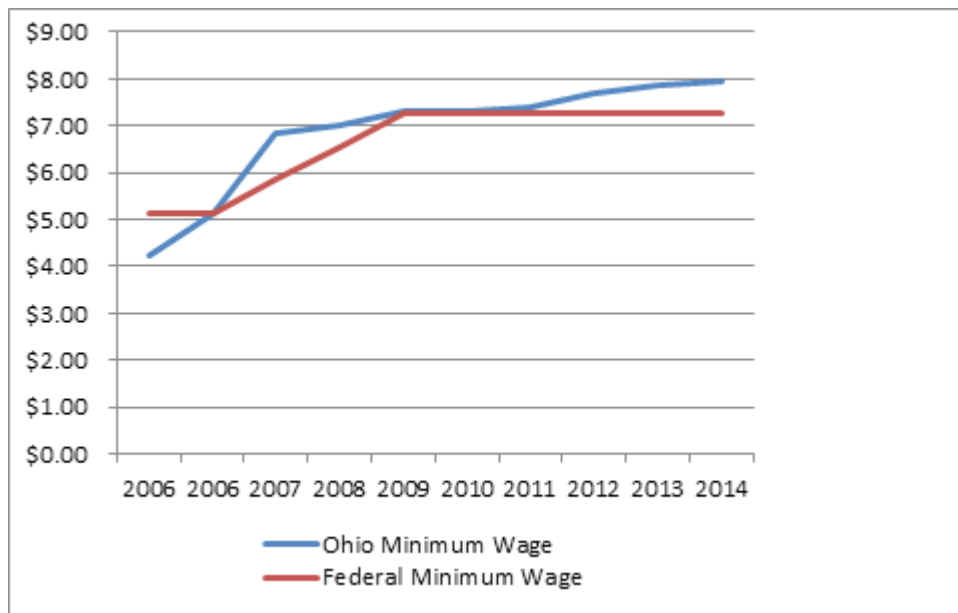
Effective January 1, 2014, Ohio's minimum wage will increase to **\$7.95 per hour for non-tipped employees** and to **\$3.98 per hour for tipped employees, plus tips**. The increased minimum wage will apply to employees of businesses with annual gross receipts of more than \$292,000 per year. The increase to \$7.95 places Ohio's minimum wage at 10th highest in the United States behind California, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nevada (for employers with no health insurance benefit), Oregon, Vermont, Washington and the District of Columbia.

The current 2013 Ohio minimum wage is \$7.85 per hour for non-tipped employees and \$3.93 for tipped employees, plus tips. The 2013 Ohio minimum wage applies to employees of businesses with annual gross receipts of more than \$288,000 per year.

Why the annual changes? On November 7, 2006, Ohio voters passed a constitutional amendment that will increase the state minimum wage annually based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) (see Ohio Minimum Wage Rates Since 2006). Thus, the state minimum wage is tied to the CPI for urban wage earners and clerical workers for the 12-month period prior to September.

For employees at smaller companies (with annual gross receipts of \$288,000 or less per year in 2013 or \$292,000 or less per year after January 1, 2014), and for 14 and 15-year-olds, the state minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. For these employees, the state wage is tied to the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, which requires an act of Congress and the President's signature to change.

### *Ohio Minimum Wage Rates Since 2006 Chart*





Not Included on Previous Reports:

**HB255 (Medicaid Eligibility)**

Representative John Becker introduced HB255 on August 27, 2013. The bill would revise the law governing eligibility for the Medicaid program and abolish the Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities Program.

## SHRM LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

### *Employment Law*

- HB82** OHIO'S CIVIL RIGHTS LAW EXEMPTION (HAYES B, BLAIR T) To exempt religious corporations, associations, educational institutions, or societies from the definition of "employer" for the purpose of Ohio's Civil Rights law.  
Current Status: 3/6/2013 - House Judiciary, (First Hearing)  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_82](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_82)
- HB98** OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING LAW (GONZALES A, RETHERFORD W) To revise the Occupational Licensing Law regarding military service members and veterans.  
Current Status: 10/2/2013 - Bills for Third Consideration  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_98](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_98)
- HB120** GENDER PAY DISPARITY TASK FORCE (LUNDY M, DRIEHAUS D) Create Gender Pay Disparity Task Force.  
Current Status: 5/8/2013 - House Commerce, Labor and Technology, (First Hearing)  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_120](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_120)
- HB163** OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS LAW EXPANSION (MCGREGOR R, ANTONIO N) To prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.  
Current Status: 5/22/2013 - House Commerce, Labor and Technology, (First Hearing)  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_163](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_163)
- HB179** EMPLOYERS-COURT-ORDERED PARENTING TIME (BISHOFF H) To require certain employers to allow a parent to exercise court-ordered parenting time without terminating the parent's employment, reducing the parent's pay, or taking other similar action against the parent.  
Current Status: 6/12/2013 - House Commerce, Labor and Technology, (First Hearing)  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_179](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_179)



## SHRM LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

- HB235** EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS (WILLIAMS S) To prohibit employers from including on an employment application any question concerning whether an applicant has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a felony.  
Current Status: 10/2/2013 - House Commerce, Labor and Technology, (First Hearing)  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_235](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_235)
- HB253** PAYCHECK CARD (ROGERS J) To prohibit certain employers from requiring employees to accept the employees' pay in the form of a paycheck card.  
Current Status: 8/27/2013 - Introduced  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_253](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_253)
- SB45** PRIVATE ELECTRONIC ACCOUNTS ACCESS (TAVARES C) To prohibit employers, employment agencies, personnel placement services, and labor organizations from requiring an applicant or employee to provide access to private electronic accounts of the applicant or employee.  
Current Status: 3/6/2013 - Senate Commerce and Labor, (Second Hearing)  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_45](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_45)
- SB70** OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS LAW (TAVARES C) To specify that discrimination by an employer against any person because of the person's credit history is an unlawful discriminatory practice under the Ohio Civil Rights Law.  
Current Status: 10/16/2013 - Senate Commerce and Labor, (First Hearing)  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_70](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_70)
- SB92** WAGE DISCRIMINATION (TURNER N, TAVARES C) To enact the "Fair and Acceptable Income Required (FAIR) Act" and to revise the enforcement of the prohibitions against discrimination in the payment of wages.  
Current Status: 6/18/2013 - Senate Commerce and Labor, (First Hearing)  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_92](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_92)
- SB119** DOMESTIC WORKERS PROTECTION (TAVARES C) To require that domestic workers be paid the minimum wage, to require that domestic workers be paid overtime wages, to make certain conduct directed toward a domestic worker an unlawful discriminatory practice, and to require a weekly day of rest for domestic workers.  
Current Status: 6/18/2013 - Senate Commerce and Labor, (First Hearing)  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_119](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_119)
- SB125** OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS LAW EXPANSION (LAROSE F, SKINDELL M) To prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.  
Current Status: 6/26/2013 - Referred to Committee Senate Civil Justice  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_125](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_125)



## SHRM LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

**SB128** SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER REQUIREMENT (TAVARES C) To restrict a person's ability to require, solicit, mail, and publicly display social security numbers.  
Current Status: 6/26/2013 - Senate Commerce and Labor, (First Hearing)  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_128](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_128)

**SB157** EMPLOYMENT TAX CREDIT-CONVICTED INDIVIDUALS (TAVARES C) To create a tax credit for the employment of individuals who have been convicted of criminal offenses.  
Current Status: 10/22/2013 - Senate Ways and Means, (First Hearing)  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_157](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_157)

### Healthcare

**HB3** HEALTH INSURANCE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (SEARS B, KUNZE S) To specify licensing and continuing education requirements for insurance agents involved in selling, soliciting, or negotiating sickness and accident insurance through a health benefit exchange.  
Current Status: 4/30/2013 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; Eff. 7/30/2013  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_3](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_3)

**HB91** HEALTH CARE FREEDOM ACT (YOUNG R, THOMPSON A) To enact the Health Care Freedom Act.  
Current Status: 4/24/2013 - House Health and Aging, (Second Hearing)  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_91](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_91)

**HB117** CAPTIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES (HACKETT R, STINZIANO M) To provide for the operation of captive insurance companies in Ohio.  
Current Status: 10/22/2013 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (Second Hearing)  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_117](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_117)

**HB121** OHIO HEALTH SECURITY ACT (HAGAN R, FOLEY M) To enact the Ohio Health Security Act to establish and operate the Ohio Health Care Plan to provide universal health care coverage to all Ohio residents.  
Current Status: 4/17/2013 - Referred to Committee House Insurance  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_121](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_121)

**HB125** MEDICAID EXPANSION (CARNEY J, ANTONIO N) To permit the Medicaid program to cover the eligibility expansion group authorized by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and to make an appropriation.  
Current Status: 4/17/2013 - Referred to Committee House Finance and Appropriations  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_125](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_125)



## SHRM LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

**HB255** MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY (BECKER J) To revise the law governing eligibility for the Medicaid program and to abolish the Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities Program.  
Current Status: 10/16/2013 - House Health and Aging, (First Hearing)  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_255](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_255)

**SB9** INSURANCE AGENTS EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS (BACON K) To specify licensing and continuing education requirements for insurance agents involved in selling, soliciting, or negotiating sickness and accident insurance through a health benefit exchange  
Current Status: 6/4/2013 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; Eff. 9/4/2013  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_9](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_9)

**SB88** OHIO HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE PROGRAM (SKINDELL M) To establish the Ohio Health Benefit Exchange Agency and to establish the Ohio Health Benefit Exchange Program consisting of an exchange for individual coverage and a Small Business Health Options Program.  
Current Status: 4/10/2013 - Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions, (First Hearing)  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_88](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_88)

**SB104** OHIO HEALTH CARE PLAN (SKINDELL M) To establish and operate the Ohio Health Care Plan to provide universal health care coverage to all Ohio residents.  
Current Status: 4/16/2013 - Referred to Committee Senate Medicaid, Health and Human Services  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_104](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_104)

### *Labor Relations*

**HB151** RIGHT TO WORK-PRIVATE EMPLOYERS (ROEGNER K) To prohibit any requirement that employees of private employers join or pay dues to any employee organization and to establish civil and criminal penalties against employers who violate that prohibition.  
Current Status: 6/4/2013 - House Manufacturing and Workforce Development, (First Hearing)  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_151](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_151)

**HB152** RIGHT TO WORK-PUBLIC EMPLOYEES (MAAG R) To remove any requirement under the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Law that public employees join or pay dues to any employee organization.  
Current Status: 5/7/2013 - Referred to Committee House State and Local Government  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_152](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_152)

**HJR5** RIGHT TO WORK (ROEGNER K, MAAG R) Proposing to enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit employees from being forced to participate in a labor organization as a condition of employment.  
Current Status: 6/4/2013 - House Manufacturing and Workforce Development, (First Hearing)  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/res.cfm?ID=130\\_HJR\\_5](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/res.cfm?ID=130_HJR_5)





## SHRM LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

### *Taxation*

- HB107** CAREER EXPLORATION INTERNSHIPS-TAX CREDIT (BAKER N) To authorize a tax credit for businesses that employ high school students in career exploration internships.  
Current Status: 10/23/2013 - House Ways and Means, (Fourth Hearing)  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_107](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_107)
- HB230** TAX CREDIT-FOOD DONATIONS (GROSSMAN C, ANIELSKI M) To authorize an income tax or commercial activity tax credit for businesses that donate food inventory to charitable organizations.  
Current Status: 10/2/2013 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_230](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_230)
- SB89** EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (SKINDELL M) To grant a state earned income tax credit equal to a percentage of the federal earned income tax credit.  
Current Status: 6/11/2013 - Senate Ways and Means, (First Hearing)  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_89](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_89)

### *Unemployment Compensation*

- HB2** UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION CLAIMANT (DERICKSON T, BROWN T) To require an unemployment compensation claimant to register with OhioMeansJobs to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits and to require a claimant to contact a local one-stop office beginning with the eighth week of filing for unemployment.  
Current Status: 7/11/2013 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; Eff. 10/11/2013  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_2](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_2)
- HB22** MILITARY SPOUSE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (PILLICH C) To permit persons who quit work to accompany the person's spouse on a military transfer to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits.  
Current Status: 2/13/2013 - House Commerce, Labor and Technology, (First Hearing)  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_22](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_22)
- HB37** SHAREDWORK OHIO PROGRAM (DUFFEY M, SCHERER G) To create the SharedWork Ohio Program and to declare an emergency.  
Current Status: 7/11/2013 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; Eff. 7/11/2013  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_37](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_37)
- HB55** UNEMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY-MILITARY SPOUSE (PILLICH C, TERHAR L) To permit persons who quit work to accompany the person's spouse on a military transfer to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits.  
Current Status: 2/27/2013 - House Commerce, Labor and Technology, (Third Hearing)  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_55](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_55)



## SHRM LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

**SB8** UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS-MILITARY SPOUSE (LAROSE F) To permit persons who quit work to accompany the person's spouse on a military transfer to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits.  
Current Status: 9/19/2013 - Referred to Committee House Military and Veterans Affairs  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_8](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_8)

**SB14** UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION LAW (KEARNEY E) To authorize programs and tax credits to encourage the hiring of unemployed individuals, to make changes to the Unemployment Compensation Law.  
Current Status: 9/24/2013 - Senate Finance, (First Hearing)  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_14](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_14)

**SB25** SHARED WORK OHIO PROGRAM (PETERSON B, LAROSE F) To create the Shared Work Ohio Program and to declare an emergency.  
Current Status: 4/10/2013 - Referred to Committee House Commerce, Labor and Technology  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_25](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_25)

### *Workers' Compensation*

**HB33** INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION BUDGET (HACKETT R) To make appropriations for the Industrial Commission for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of Commission programs.  
Current Status: 3/26/2013 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; Eff. 3/26/2013  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_33](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_33)

**HB34** WORKERS' COMPENSATION BUDGET (HACKETT R) To make appropriations for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015; and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of the Bureau's programs.  
Current Status: 3/26/2013 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; Eff. 3/26/2013  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_34](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_34)

**HB143** WORKERS' COMPENSATION (DEVITIS A, BUTLER, JR. J) To require the Administrator of Workers' Compensation to include in the notice of premium rate that is applicable to an employer for an upcoming policy year the mathematical equation used by the Administrator to determine the employer's premium rate.  
Current Status: 5/14/2013 - House Insurance, (First Hearing)  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_143](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_143)



## SHRM LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

**SB176** ILLEGAL ALIENS-WORKERS' COMPENSATION (SEITZ B) To prohibit illegal and unauthorized aliens from receiving compensation and certain benefits under Ohio's Workers' Compensation Law.  
Current Status: 9/26/2013 - Referred to Committee Senate Commerce and Labor  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_176](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_176)

### *Workforce Development*

**HB1** OHIO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT LAW (DERICKSON T, ROMANCHUK M) To require a local workforce investment area to use OhioMeansJobs as the local workforce investment area's job placement system, to rename county one-stop systems, and to make other changes to Ohio's Workforce Development Law.  
Current Status: 6/27/2013 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; Eff. 9/27/2013  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_1](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_1)

**SB1** OHIOMEANSJOBS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND (BEAGLE B, BALDERSON T) To create the OhioMeansJobs Workforce Development Revolving Loan Fund, to create the OhioMeansJobs Workforce Development Revolving Loan Program, to allocate a portion of casino license fees to finance the loan program, and to make an appropriation.  
Current Status: 7/11/2013 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR; Eff. 10/11/2013  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_1](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_1)

**SB2** OHIO'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT LAW (LEHNER P, BEAGLE B) To require a local workforce investment area to use OhioMeansJobs as the local workforce investment area's job placement system, to rename county one-stop systems, and to make other changes to Ohio's Workforce Development Law.  
Current Status: 4/10/2013 - Referred to Committee House Manufacturing and Workforce Development  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_2](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_2)

### *Misc.*

**HB59** BIENNIAL BUDGET (AMSTUTZ R) To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015; to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs.  
Current Status: 6/30/2013 - SIGNED BY GOVERNOR  
State Bill Page: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_HB\\_59](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_HB_59)



## OTHER NEWS IN STATE, LOCAL & FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

### *Federal*

#### **Affordable Care Act (ACA)**

On October 1, the online insurance marketplace that is the backbone of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), officially went live. The website, [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov), struggled to handle the high volume of consumers, but federal officials continue to work to address website problems as quickly as possible. Despite the initial glitches, insurers and advocates continue to promote the message to consumers about the new health insurance options. One of the biggest challenges to the program's success remains persuading young and healthy people to purchase insurance to balance the costs of covering the sick and elderly.

On September 25, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released data on prices Ohioans will pay for coverage bought in the health insurance exchanges created by the ACA. The average premium for the second-cheapest silver plan in Ohio will be \$321 per month, according to the report.

#### **Government Shutdown**

On October 1, the US government partially shut down for the first time in 17 years, as President Obama and congressional Republicans continue their standoff over healthcare reforms and a looming deadline to pass a federal spending bill.

On October 17, Congress and President Obama came to an agreement on terms to reopen the government and raise the debt limit. The legislation signed by President Obama guaranteed that all 2 million federal employees who had been furloughed would receive back pay. Additionally, it will permit the US Treasury to borrow normally through February 7, 2014 or longer, and fund the government through January 15, 2014.

An end to the 16-day government shutdown was welcome news to many Ohioans, including employees at DSCC in Whitehall and Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, along with the many Ohio veterans depending on GI Bill benefits from the Office of Military and Veterans Services.

### *State*

#### **Controlling Board Approves Medicaid Expansion**

On October 21, Governor John Kasich succeeded in getting Controlling Board approval of a proposed Medicaid expansion. Earlier this year, the Ohio General Assembly added language into the budget that barred Kasich from expanding Medicaid. The governor later vetoed that language.

On October 22, a group of House Republicans filed a lawsuit in the Ohio Supreme Court challenging the Kasich administration's use of the Controlling Board to expand Medicaid. The legislators were among 39 House Republicans who signed a protest letter the previous week objecting to the use of the Controlling Board to expand Medicaid. The lawsuit said that the Ohio Constitution forbids the Controlling Board from making enacting a major policy that diverges from the expressed intent of the General Assembly.



## OTHER NEWS IN STATE, LOCAL & FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

### *Workers' Compensation Changes in Ohio*

On October 4, the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Administrator/CEO Stephen Buehrer announced that the governor's "Billion Back" rebate program will effectively double with the pending switch to pay-as-you-go billing, which will award all participating employers a six-month retroactive credit when pre-paid state insurance goes live in 2015. Buehrer said the \$2 billion total will be further augmented by a 2-4 percent rate reduction with the move to prospective billing, in addition to decreases in the base rate under the Kasich administration. The latest is a 1.6 percent base rate reduction for public employers as of January 2014 — set to be approved by the board in October — which was preceded by a 2.1 percent drop for private employers beginning with FY14.

The BWC recently said that some \$900 million in rebates from the program are already being invested in workforce development, safety programs and workplace upgrades. Additionally the bureau plans to launch a safety campaign in the next several weeks to further highlight employer grants and other rate and claims reductions to be achieved through safety investments.

More on BWC's "Billion Back" and safety programs can be found at <http://www.bwc.ohio.gov/home/current/releases/2013/050213.asp> and <http://www.bwc.ohio.gov/employer/programs/safety/EmpGrants.asp>, respectively.