

June 2014 National Legislative Update

Notes from Our Last Committee Meeting:

Steve Arthurs then provide an update on a few bills being considered at the Federal level as well as the status of a few bills that were discussed with the group previously. He noted that, overall, since the last Board meeting most of the actions have had a positive outcome for the food industry.

Among those reviewed:

GMO Labeling: HR 4432 is a GMO bill being supported by most in our industry. This bill calls for voluntary package labeling – but most importantly outlines the criteria for the labeling and the designation to be used on the packaging. This addresses the major concern that our industry has with regard to the issue.

Minimum Wage: Last week the Senate rejected the proposed Federal Minimum Wage bill – which should, at least for this session, put the issue on hold.

NLRB Rulemaking: This issue, regarding the timing and regulations surrounding the issue of how and when a Union can solicit members and calling for a vote to enter into collective bargaining arrangement, is one that we have been monitoring for the past two legislative sessions. HR 4320 provides for a 35 day notification process (negating the “quickie elections”). A second bill 4321 provides regulations regarding what employee (personal) information the employer needs to provide a union. These two bills together – if passed – provide some relief to business in dealing with this issue.

ACA Employer Issues: A newly formalized Senate bill S 2205 contains the necessary language to change the full time determination factor (used in determining employer health care obligations) from the current 30 hours to 40 hours. This would make these criteria more in line with common practices. This bill would result in savings for many companies and also would make the managing of part timer’s hours during their two - six month measurement windows much easier.