

July 17, 2007

To: CIHC Board & Local Section Presidents  
From: Judy Barrett Miller, CIHC Legislative Office  
Re: AB 515 (Lieber) - Senate Appropriations Hearing

Yesterday, AB 515 was scheduled to be heard before the Senate Appropriations Committee but the bill was pulled from the agenda and put over until the next hearing. Ordinarily that would mean after the legislature takes its month-long recess, but as you have probably read in your local newspapers, without first sending a state budget to the Governor... no one is leaving town on vacation. That will also impact committee hearings, and the Senate Appropriations Committee has already scheduled a Monday hearing in anticipation of the budget impasse, and therefore AB 515 will be on the agenda for their July 23rd hearing.

It is rumored that AB 515 was pulled because the sponsors want to include a list of 32 substances to be prioritized. Cal OSHA presented at their June 19th PEL Process meeting, over 200 chemicals/substances to be reviewed or re-reviewed and asked stakeholders, including Worksafe - the sponsors of AB 515 - for their input on the prioritization process. Meanwhile, the Health Expert Advisory Committee has already been appointed, comprised of a prestigious group of researchers and scientists representing expertise in industrial hygiene, occupational medicine, exposure assessments/toxicology. Their first meeting is slated for August 21st.

I will update you next week after the Senate Appropriations hearing. If you have not already sent letters, please use this new opportunity to write to the Chair and members of the committee expressing your concerns regarding AB 515 and support for an amended approach which would put Cal OSHA's PEL Process in statute. Thank you in advance for your assistance!