

# C.M. SMITH AGENCY, INC.

## MASSACHUSETTS UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE LAW BECOMES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007

### **What is it?**

Legislation signed into law last year by then Governor Mitt Romney establishing a method to provide the medically uninsured residents of Massachusetts increased access to medical insurance. The law becomes effective July 1, 2007.

### **Who will it impact?**

The law will be imposed on Massachusetts health insurers and Massachusetts employers (who employ 10 or more employees).

The law impacts Massachusetts residents, regardless of where their employer is based, to the extent that all residents will be required to show proof of medical insurance coverage when filing their 2007 state income tax return. Individuals who cannot show proof of health insurance coverage with this filing may be subject to penalties.

### **How will it affect Connecticut employers?**

Connecticut based employers, with health insurance plans situated in the state of Connecticut generally do not have to comply with the MA legislation in terms of plan coverage and cost. However, you should be aware of the impact it may have on your employees who are Massachusetts residents.

Employees who are residents of Massachusetts, who have declined medical insurance under your group insurance plan, may ask if they can enroll in your group medical plan for a July 1, 2007 effective date. Insurance carriers should honor such requests under a special open enrollment.

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We encourage you keep an eye out for vendor communications on this ground breaking legislation.

More information is available on [www.mass.gov/connector](http://www.mass.gov/connector).

*C.M. Smith Agency, Inc. is not a law firm and therefore we are not able to give legal advice. You should consult with legal counsel if you have specific questions on this subject matter.*