

## **ObamaCare — Another Delay in Employer Mandate**



The Obama administration is going to give another year delay for the employer mandate for businesses with 50 to 99 employees. They won't have to insure their full-time workers until 2015.

As part of the delay, these employers will have to inform the administration about how many of their employees are insured but will have until 2016 to actually insure them.

Critics were quick to attack. The major point of contention is requiring individuals to purchase insurance via the individual mandate but letting business off the hook. House Speaker John Boehner was the first to lash out.

"Once again, the president is giving a break to corporations while individuals and families are still stuck under the mandates of his health care law. And, once again, the president is rewriting law on a whim. If the administration doesn't believe employers can manage the burden of the law, how can struggling families be expected to?" he said.

Also in the changes is a new policy on employers with 100 or more workers. They'll only be required to cover 70% of their workers in 2014 and 95% in 2015 and beyond.

Critics are also wondering if this has anything to do with the Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) report that the Affordable Care Act is causing the U.S. to lose jobs. They say some firms are cutting staffs to below 50 people to avoid the mandate that they provide insurance for all employees.

Senate Republicans Sen. John Barrasso of Wyoming and Sen. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma sent a letter to IRS head John Koskinen and asked how he is going to enforce the individual mandate.

"Given a number of last-minute administrative 'adjustments' made by the Administration, there is some understandable confusion and concern about the enforcement of the individual mandate tax. With the Administration's decision to waive, delay, or unilaterally alter some provisions of the law-including the employer mandate tax on businesses-taxpayers deserve clarification on how the agency intends to enforce the individual mandate tax," their letter said.

**This is the latest in a number of changes the Obama administration has made to a law passed by Congress. Critics say the president does not have the right to not**

implement the parts of the law he agrees with and leave out the parts he doesn't agree with.

- Should President Obama be able to change the employer mandate or other parts of the law?
- What should be done if he shouldn't be able to make those changes?
- Why do you think Congress does not take action on changes to a law it passed and that the president should implement?
- Many of you fit within the 50 to 99 employee number. What do you think of the delay?

Send your comments to *Weekly Industry News* Editor Gary Wolcott at [garywolcott@piawest.com](mailto:garywolcott@piawest.com).