

## Illinois State Exchange Approval

On July 14, 2011 Illinois became the 13th state to sign a health exchange bill into law (PA 097-0142). The intent is for the exchange to be operational by October 1, 2013. The exchange will be known as the Illinois Health Benefits Exchange and is projected to help individuals and small employers (no more than 50 employees) shop, select and enroll in qualified health plans. It is expected that this exchange will supplement and not replace the private insurance market.

The legislation creates a legislative study committee to report its findings back to Gov. Quinn by September 30, 2011. The report is to include information on governance and structure, financial sustainability, stakeholder engagement and the operation model. Also included will be the size of the employers to be offered coverage (no more than 50), coverage pools and development of standards within the Exchange.

The law also gives the Department of Insurance and the Commission on Governmental Forecasting and Accountability the authorization to apply for, accept, and receive and use as appropriate any grant money provided by the federal government.

It remains to be seen exactly how the exchange will function and what role licensed insurance brokers will play in the exchange. As always, we will keep you informed with the changes that will impact you and your employees.