New Ohio law brings changes to interstate coverage

Changes to Ohio's workers' compensation law may impact employers based in other states that do business in Ohio. The law, Senate Bill 334, became effective Sept. 11, 2008. It limits Ohio recognition of other states' workers' compensation coverage to a maximum of 90 days.
You can view the bill by visiting http://www.gongwer-oh.com and selecting the Legislation banner and the 2007-2008 session.

Ohio will recognize other states' coverage if other states accept Ohio coverage on employers working in their states. This agreement is good for up to 90 days. However, employers from states that do not recognize Ohio coverage must obtain Ohio coverage for employees working in Ohio. The law does not require agreements for Ohio to recognize other states' coverage as long as those states recognize Ohio coverage when Ohio employers work in their state.

The new law allows Ohio employers to exclude payroll for premium computation for work done in other states. For the employer to take advantage of this allowance, he or she must have secured coverage for work done outside of Ohio. This exclusion is effective with the payroll-reporting period beginning Jan. 1, 2009.

In addition, an Ohio injured worker may only file a claim in one jurisdiction. Once an injured worker files a claim in another state, and that jurisdiction allows or denies the claim, the worker may not file a claim for the same injury in Ohio.

For questions on these changes or Ohio workers' compensation law, call the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation at 1-800-644-6292, and listen to the options.