

[AARP Health Information](#) AARP Endorsed Insurance Products & Discounts for Those 50 and Over. [www.AARPHHealthcare.com](#)

[Low Cost Health Insurance](#) Blue Cross, Aetna, CIGNA & More! Customized Quotes in Any State. [www.GoHealthInsurance.com](#)

[Defense Base Act Coverage](#) Quality coverage for International Government Contractors [www.bbgbroker.com](#) AdChoices

News Opinion Journal Junction Blogs Sports Weekender Ads Classifieds Jobs Extras CU Contact Us

BREAKING NEWS» Warrants issued against suspect in police standoff

Editorials

/ News / Opinion / Editorials /

Learning Lag»

- Editorials
- Letters to the Editor
- Journal Junction
- Local Columns
- Syndicated Columnists
- Government Officials
- Reader forums
- Blogs
- SUBMIT Letters to the Editor
- SUBMIT to Journal Junction

Money?Drain

Medicaid expansion, wage hike would hurt state

September 10, 2012

journal-news.net

Save | Comments (14) | Post a comment |

Creating more good jobs in West Virginia will not happen unless our state is made more attractive to businesses. Expanding the size, power and cost of government will make that more difficult.

Analysts at the West Virginia Center for Budget and Policy have released a report on the state of our state's workforce. In many ways the situation is bleak. Unemployment remains at about 7.4 percent. That number will increase if some of President Barack Obama's policies, such as the war on coal, are pursued. In addition, more jobs than in the past come without health insurance or pension benefits, the center found.

Statistics reported by the center are illuminating in regard to the nature of employment in the Mountain State. More than half the jobs here are in government, trade, transportation, utilities, education and health services.

Government jobs provide more than 20 percent of the total nonfarm employment in our state, the center found. That is substantially higher than the national average.

Center analysts made several recommendations for improving the economy and thus, providing more and better jobs.

Some of those ideas make sense - but others would expand the cost of government enormously. That would siphon more money from the private sector, making West Virginia less, not more attractive to the manufacturers our state needs badly.

Expanding the state Medicaid program, as mandated under the

national health care law, would add around \$180 million a year to the state budget - which already is in trouble. Spending cuts of 7.5 percent for most state agencies have been ordered by Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin, merely to keep the budget balanced.

Other suggestions by the center, such as selling bonds to improve the state's infrastructure, also would increase the cost of government.

Another recommendation, increasing the required minimum wage, would hurt existing businesses and, in all likelihood, force them to reduce employment.

State legislators have attempted for years to provide tax relief that could attract more businesses to West Virginia. Putting more pressure on the budget, as recommended by the center, would make that virtually impossible. In that light, the group's suggestions should be viewed skeptically.

Save | Comments (14) | Post a comment |

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

0

Martinsburg, WV 71.0° [Extended Forecast](#) [Find Another Location](#)
Data provided by The Weather Channel ©

News, Blogs & Events

I am looking for:

in:

- News, Blogs & Events
- Web
- EZToUse.com

Click here for local business and residential phone listings.

Phlebotomy Class Near You

2012 Phlebotomy Training Programs. Near You - Enter Zip & Apply Now! [Phlebotomy.CampusCorner.com](#)

Electronic Health Record

60000+Physicians Use eClinicalWorks Web-based EHR+PM. View demo. [www.eclinicalworks.com](#)

VA Home Loan for Veterans

Get a Quote in 2 Minutes! VA Loans now Up to \$729,000 with \$0 Down. [www.VAMortgageCenter.com](#)

VPI Dog Insurance

9 out of 10 veterinarians recommend VPI, America's Trusted Choice. [www.petinsurance.com](#) AdChoices

Defense Base Act Coverage

Quality coverage for International Government Contractors [www.bbgbroker.com](#) AdChoices

Health Plans - \$30 Month

Get Affordable Health Insurance Online - Plans from \$30 / Month! [Affordable-Health-Insurance](#) AdChoices

Remodeling Martinsburg WV

Experts in Remodeling your Home Kitchen Bathroom etc. 304-725-2101 [www.handymanchoice.com](#) AdChoices

Subscribe to journal-news.net



journal-news.net

207 W. King Street , Martinsburg, WV 25402-0807 | 304-263-8931

© 2012. All rights reserved. | [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)