

Reprinted from *Sacramento Bee*, Wednesday, May 13, 2009 – 12:00 am | Page 4A  
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 – 8:29 am

## **New California law offers health aid to those laid off by small firms**

*By Jim Sanders, Bee Capitol Bureau, (916) 326-5538, jsanders@sacbee.com*

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed legislation Tuesday to help tens of thousands of workers laid off from small businesses obtain a federal subsidy for health insurance.

The measure will help workers terminated since September by small firms – fewer than 20 employees – to qualify for nine months of federal aid paying 65 percent of their insurance premium.

Assembly Bill 23, which will take effect immediately, was crafted by Assemblymen **Dave Jones, D-Sacramento**, and Nathan Fletcher, R-San Diego. Similar aid already is available to workers laid off from larger firms.