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COVID-19 Legislative Update

August 10, 2020

Please see below for updates on legislation related to COVID-19. Updates are published every Monday and Thursday evening. For past updates, click [here](#). For updates before May 8, click [here](#). If you believe you have been accidentally unsubscribed, you can re-subscribe [here](#).

8.10.2020. COVID-19 Legislative Update

Legislation

Supplemental IV

Timeline: Talks fell apart last Friday, and we seem far from a deal. On Saturday, the President issued multiple executive orders to show some sort of action at the federal level. Despite the [tweets](#) this morning, neither party seems to have reached out to restart talks. **There will likely be quiet discussions between Democrats and the White House this week.** It is unclear whether negotiations will restart with a modified group. Both the deadlines on unemployment insurance and the Paycheck Protection Program have come and gone, so there isn't a set date putting pressure on Congress and the White House to pass a package by. **Pessimists see this bleeding into September.**

Politics/Process: State/local/tribal funding and unemployment insurance are the biggest sticking points, and there's a belief that **if those can be agreed upon, the rest of the package could fall into place.** However, Speaker Pelosi indicated on Friday that they're far apart on those issues (and others like education funding). Committees cannot move forward to negotiate details until a overarching deal has been struck.

Policy: On Saturday, the President issued four executive orders aimed at releasing some pressure from negotiations and showing that the administration is taking action. **Many see these actions as less robust than initially described.** Because of their limited nature, however, they rest on sounder legal footing than other actions the White House may have considered. House Democrats have been expected to file suit; however, if they do not,

1. **Payroll tax deferral** until December 31, 2020. Limited to payroll taxes on employees making less than \$2,000 a week. Memorandum [here](#).
2. Provides \$400 per week in federal **unemployment insurance** but requires states to provide the first \$100. The order redirects funding from the Federal Emergency Management Administration's Disaster Relief Fund (DRF), which is usually used for natural disasters. The federal boost will stop when either the \$25 billion allocated from the DRF is depleted or December 6, 2020. Memorandum [here](#).
 - a. *Note: because the July 31 expiration on federal unemployment insurance has come and gone, it will take states multiple weeks to begin distributing this money, even if states do accede to providing 25 percent of the cost. States have indicated that it will be difficult to implement, and some may have to seek a waiver.*
3. Directs the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and Secretary of the Treasury to identify federal funds to be used for **rental assistance** to renters/homeowners struggling to pay rent/mortgage due to COVID-19. Also, directs the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the CDC Director to consider whether rental eviction moratoriums are "reasonably necessary" to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Memorandum [here](#).
4. Essentially extends the current Education Department policies of **student loan payment** deferment and setting student loan interest rates at zero until December 31, 2020. Memorandum [here](#).

HEALS: Senate Republicans released the eight-bill package the Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protection, and Schools (HEALS) Act on July 27. See the following for the individual bills. *American Workers, Families, and Employers Assistance Act* (Senate Finance Committee provisions) text [here](#), section by section [here](#). *Continuing Small Business Recovery and Paycheck Protection Program Act* (Small Business provisions) press release [here](#), text [here](#), section by section [here](#), one pager [here](#). *Coronavirus Response Additional Supplemental Appropriations Act* (Appropriations provisions) text [here](#), summary [here](#). *Restoring Critical Supply Chains and Intellectual Property Act* (Supply Chain and Research provisions) text [here](#), section by section [here](#). *SAFE TO WORK Act* (Liability Relief) text [here](#), section by section [here](#). *Safely Back to School and Back to Work Act* (Health, Education, and Labor Provisions) text [here](#), section by section [here](#). *Supporting America's Restaurant Workers Act* text [here](#). *TRUST Act* text [here](#), section by section [here](#), one pager [here](#).

HEROES: The House passed the Democrats' opening bid for the next bill, the Heroes Act, on May 15. While it's been over two months since House passage of the bill and the contours of the debate and which issues are most pressing have shifted slightly, it can still serve as a marker of what Senate Republicans will be responding to in their bill. Heroes Act text (as of 5/12/2020) [here](#). Section by section [here](#). One pager [here](#). State and Local one pager [here](#). NCAI's summary on tribal provisions [here](#). Manager's amendment [here](#). House Rules Committee report [here](#).

information and guidance and passed legislation, please refer to the [archives](#). For a summary of all supplementals, please see [here](#).

New Implementation Information and Guidance

- There has been no new information and guidance since the previous update.

Members of Congress in Quarantine or Treatment (new additions in bold)

Tested Positive (3): Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX), Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL)

Currently Self-Quarantined (5): Rep. Randy Weber (R-TX), Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX), Rep. Mike Johnson (R-LA), Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA), Rep. Jody Hice (R-GA)

Recovered (9): Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY), Rep. Joe Cunningham (D-SC), Rep. Ben McAdams (D-UT), Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA), Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY), Rep. Neal Dunn (R-FL), Rep. Tom Rice (R-SC), Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-VA)

Completed Quarantine (39): Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX), Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC), Sen. Lindsay Graham (R-SC), Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA), Rep. Sharice Davids (D-KS), Rep. Doug Collins (R-GA), Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ), Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO), Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL), Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL), Rep. Jason Crow (D-CO), Rep. Julia Brownley (D-CA), Rep. Ben Ray Luján (D-NM), Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI), Rep. Stephanie Murphy (D-FL), Rep. John Yarmuth (D-KY), Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), Rep. Vincente Gonzalez (D-TX), Rep. Drew Ferguson (R-GA), Rep. David Schweikert (R-AZ), Rep. Anthony Brindisi (D-NY), Rep. David Price (D-NC), Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO), Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-NY), Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-PA), Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK), Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA), Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-FL), Rep. Andy Kim (D-NJ), Rep. Kendra Horn (D-OK), Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT), Sen. Mitt Romney (R-UT), Rep. Katie Porter (D-CA), Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA), Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX), Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ), Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ), Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN)



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