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COVID-19 Legislative Update

September 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](#).

9.10.2020. COVID-19 Legislative Update

Legislation

Supplemental IV

Timeline/Process/Politics: Every day that goes by without negotiations between parties, the odds for passing another COVID bill decrease. **Earlier today the Senate voted on the Republican bill** that was released on Tuesday. The measure failed to reach the 60 votes but garnered every Republican vote except for Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY). After Republicans released the bill on Tuesday, Speaker Pelosi and Leader Schumer issued a blistering [statement](#), calling the bill “emaciated” and a move to give vulnerable Republican Senators a “check the box vote”.

While the Republican “skinny” bill didn’t move forward, the goal of the vote was to show that Republicans can unify behind something and provide leverage for future negotiations. **While Republicans have (finally) rallied around a bill, Democrats and Republicans still remain a ways apart.** Many are skeptical anything COVID-related can get done over the next couple weeks before a continuing resolution (CR) needs to be passed. As negotiations remain stalled, **it is becoming increasingly likely that a CR will be passed separate from any COVID package.** House leaders have indicated that they want to put a CR on the House floor during the week of September 21.

Policy: Senate Republicans released another COVID package on Tuesday. While it did not pass the Senate, it can be seen as a marker for the priorities Republicans will focus on in negotiations. Text [here](#). Summary [here](#). The bill clocks in at \$300 billion, after offsets.

- **Offsets** from \$204 billion from funding allocated to Federal Reserve programs in CARES, sets the 13(3) facilities to expire in January, rescinds \$146 billion in unspent small business funding from CARES Act.
- **Liability protections** for businesses and healthcare providers;
- \$300 per week in enhanced **unemployment insurance** through the end of the year;
- Small Business policies including:
 - Allows small businesses to take out a **second Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan** if they have revenue loss of 35 percent or more (HEALS set the threshold at 50 percent or more);
 - Provides \$257.7 billion for PPP, which includes \$100 billion in unused funds;
 - Simplification of the loan process (Sen. Cramer’s Paycheck Protection Small Business Forgiveness Act);
 - Additional reporting required for businesses receiving loan forgiveness;
 - Funding for audits.
- \$10 billion for the **U.S. Postal Service** – the bill would convert a \$10 billion loan to the USPS into a grant if the USPS falls below \$8 billion in cash on hand.
- Education policies including:
 - Funding for scholarship-granting organizations for expenses like private school tuition and home-schooling expenses; Also, provides tax credits for two years dedicated for scholarship granting organizations (School Choice Now Act);
 - Allow students to use 529 plan funds for relevant expenses for two years (Student Empowerment Act);
 - **Childcare program** included in HEALS (see [here](#) for HEALS education text)
- Health policies and funding, including:
 - **Pandemic preparedness** program (supply chain, SNS) in HEALS (see [here](#) for HEALS education text)
- Extends when states/local/tribal governments must spend CARES Act funding until September 30, 2021 (extended from December 31, 2020).
- Increases **tax incentives for charity** from \$300 above-the-line deduction (as implemented in the CARES Act) to \$600 for individuals and \$1,200 for those filing a joint return.
- Appropriations title, including:
 - \$105 billion for **Education Stabilization Fund** (66 percent for K-12 and 29 percent for higher education and 5 percent to governors to use for either higher education or K-12);
 - \$16 billion for **testing/contact tracing**;
 - \$31 billion for **vaccine and treatment** development and distribution (the mid-August skinny bill allocated \$29 billion for these purposes);
 - \$20 billion for farm assistance,
 - \$500 million for fisheries, and
 - \$15 billion for child care (\$5 billion for Child Care Development Block Grant and \$10 billion for the program authorized above “Back to Work Child Care Grants”).

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](#).

Passed Legislation

Moving forward, this section will only include new information and guidance. For past 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 (2): Rep. Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon (R-Puerto Rico at large), Rep. Dan Meuser (R-PA)

Currently Self-Quarantined (0):

Recovered (13): 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), Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX), Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL), Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)

Completed Quarantine (45): 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.

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

*Mark Meadows quarantined March 9 – 12 after coming in contact with a CPAC attendee who tested positive. On March 20, he resigned from his position in the House to become the White House Chief of Staff.



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