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## COVID-19 Legislative Update

*December 14 2020*

The COVID-19 Legislative Update is published on Monday evenings. **If we see a deal finalized, there will be another update this week.** 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](#).

### **12.14.2020. COVID-19 Legislative Update**

#### **Legislation**

##### ***Supplemental IV***

**Timeline: Negotiations continued over the weekend and the bipartisan group released bill text earlier today.** Appropriators read out the appropriations bills this afternoon, with the aim to file the bill in the House tomorrow. If a COVID deal is reached, it could be added to the omnibus bill as an amendment (along with other end of year items) in the Rules Committee meeting on Wednesday.

**Process/Politics:** While the bipartisan group released text today (with the liability protection and state/local/tribal governments released separately), **the expectation is that there will be changes to the text as leadership negotiates the final pieces.** There's been cause for cautious optimism as there's been significant momentum in the right direction.

Leader McConnell has been calling for liability protection and aid to state, local, and tribal governments to be left out of the end of the year package and be negotiated later. While Democratic leadership has continued to push to keep it in, in recent days House Majority Whip Steny Hoyer and Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin have made statements pushing for a vote on a COVID package even if it doesn't include a deal on aid to state, local, and tribal governments and liability protections.

**Policy:** Earlier today the bipartisan group released two separate pieces of text: a \$748 billion package with less controversial items and a \$160 billion package that includes

passage.

*Problem Solvers/Bipartisan Framework*: [Text](#) on main package. [Summary](#) of the main package. [Text](#) on liability protection/state aid protections. December 9 [framework](#). December 1 press release [here](#). December 1 framework [here](#).

Highlights of the main package:

- \$300 billion for the SBA, \$138 billion repurposed from unspent **Paycheck Protection Program** (PPP) allocations.
  - Allows business expenses paid for with PPP loans to be tax deductible
  - Includes set-asides for small borrowers (10 or fewer employees) and CDFIs/MDIs
  - Includes support for restaurants, types of 501(c)(6)s, and live events
- \$180 billion for **Unemployment Insurance** (UI)
  - \$300/week for 16 weeks (through April 2021)
  - \$1 billion for state technology modernization/fraud prevention
- \$6 billion for **vaccine development/distribution**, including:
  - \$3.42 billion for direct grants to state/localities/tribes
  - \$2.58 billion for CDC vaccines distribution and infrastructure (\$129 million for tribes and relevant tribe-serving organizations).
- \$10 billion for **testing and tracing**, including:
  - \$3.5 billion in direct grants to state/localities/tribes,
  - \$2.32 billion to hot spots, and another \$827.5 million to be used for states at the Secretary's discretion,
  - \$350 million to tribes and relevant tribe-serving organizations.
  - \$2 billion for nursing homes, long term care, HCBS, and assisted living facilities.
  - \$700 million for additional research and medial supply needs
- \$35 billion for the Healthcare **Provider Relief Fund**, including
  - \$7 billion for rural providers and \$1 billion for tribes and relevant tribe-serving organizations.
  - Provisions that allow certain flexibilities with PRF funds (lost revenue calculations, movement of funds)
  - Authorized interstate compacts for COVID-19 tests and supplies
  - Extends telehealth flexibility through December 31, 2021.
- \$4.6 billion for **opioids and mental health**, including
  - \$3.15 billion for SAMHSA programs,
  - \$1.3 billion for State Opioid Response (SOR) Grants
- \$45 billion for **transportation** support, including
  - Extension of the Payroll Support Program from the CARES Act until March 31, 2021,
  - Funding for airlines/airports through March 31, 2021,
  - Funding for buses and motorcoaches, public transit systems, and Amtrack through March 31, 2021.

- \$13 billion for **farmers, ranchers, growers, and rural** communities, as well as \$600 million for fishery disaster relief.
- \$12 billion for emergency investments, including
  - \$2 billion for the **CDFI fund**, relief to minority communities, minority-owned lenders, (\$800 million for minority lending institutions),
  - \$10 billion for **CDFIs and MDIs** for immediate economic relief in low-income and minority communities hard hit by the pandemic.
- \$10 billion for U.S. Postal Service
- \$26 billion for nutrition/agriculture, including
  - Temporary increase to **SNAP** benefits,
  - Increased funding for school and child care meal programs,
  - Funding for senior nutrition services and extends flexibilities,
  - Funding for US territories not served by SNAP,
  - Funding for food distribution programs on tribal reservations.
- \$25 billion for **rental assistance** to state, local, and tribal governments, including
  - Prioritization of low-income households,
  - Funding can be used for rent, utilities, and other related housing expenses,
  - Extension of current eviction moratorium to January 31, 2021.
- \$82 billion for **education**, including
  - \$7.5 billion for Governors Emergency Education Relief Fund (\$2.5 billion for private schools),
  - \$54 billion for K-12,
  - \$20 billion for higher education.
- Extension of student loan forbearance created in CARES to April 1, 2021.
- \$10 billion for **broadband**, including
  - \$6.25 billion for state grants,
  - \$3 billion for E-Rate,
  - \$475 million for FCC COVID-19 Telehealth Program,
  - \$100 million for the VA Telehealth and Connected Care Program.
- Reallocates \$429 billion in unused Treasury loans and excess funds from Federal Reserve.

### **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 (3): Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA), Rep. Ted Budd (R-NC), Rep. Robert

Recovered (28): 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), Rep. Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon (R-Puerto Rico at large), Rep. Dan Meuser (R-PA), Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-CT), Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT), Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC), Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI), Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA), Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL), Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-MI), Rep. Drew Ferguson (R-GA), Rep. Don Young (R-AK), Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL), Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI), Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-IL), Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO), Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA), Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO), Sen. Kelly Loeffler (R-GA), Rep. Brian Steil (R-WI), Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT) , Rep. Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV)

Completed Quarantine (48): 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), 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), Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI), Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE), Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE), Sen. James Lankford (R-OK), Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX), Rep. Mike Johnson (R-LA), Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA), Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI)



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