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COVID-19 Legislative Update

March 15, 2021

Please note this will be the last publication of the COVID-19 Legislative Update. A second email containing helpful resources for the implementation of recent legislation will be along shortly. To access the most recent archives, click [here](#).

3.15.2021. COVID-19 Legislative Update

Legislation

Supplemental V – The American Rescue Plan

Timeline/Process/Politics: After the Senate passed the bill 50-49 on March 6, the House passed the bill last Wednesday, with two Democrats voting against (Reps. Jared Golden and Kurt Schrader). No Republicans in either chamber voted for the bill. After initially [planning](#) to sign the bill into law on Friday, President Biden signed the bill on last Thursday at 1:30 p.m.

Policy: The House passed the bill on Wednesday, March 10, by a vote of 220-211. Text of the bill [here](#), comprehensive summary [here](#). Summary of the Senate changes [here](#), one-pager on changes [here](#). Senate Majority Leader Schumer sent out a [Dear Colleague](#) last Tuesday with links to various summaries of key parts of the bill.

Estimates for Relief for Individual States:

- State and Local Fiscal Relief [here](#)
- Enhanced Federal Unemployment Insurance [here](#)
- Expanded Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit [here](#)
- Additional Round of Direct Payments [here](#)
- Education Relief Funding [here](#)
- Emergency Rental Assistance [here](#)
- FEMA Disaster Relief Fund Estimates [here](#)
- Child Care and CCDBG [here](#)

- Rural Transit [here](#)
- Paratransit [here](#)
- Enhanced and Expanded ACA subsidies [here](#) and [here](#)
- Extension of ACA Premium Subsidies to UI Recipients [here](#)
- Incentives for Non-Expansion States to Expand Medicaid, Increased FMAP [here](#), Increased coverage [here](#)

Highlights of Senate changes to the bill below:

- **Extends the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC)** through 12/31/21, adopts the expansions from the December Omnibus, and codifies the ERTC by adding it to the Internal Revenue Code as § 3134. The December 2020 Omni made a handful of expansions to the original CARES ERTC including: increased the credit percentage from 50 to 70; increased the maximum credit from \$10k per employee to \$10k per quarter per employee; extended the credit from 12/31/20 through 6/31/21; and, loosened the gross receipts test from 50 percent (relative to 2019) to 80 percent (relative to 2019).
- \$10 billion **Critical Infrastructure Project program aimed at assisting state, territorial, and tribal governments** with COVID-19 response. Also establishes a requirement that small states receive at least the amount they received under the CARES Act's Coronavirus Relief Fund.
- Makes **higher educational debt forgiveness tax-free** on loans discharged between 12/31/20 and 12/31/25. This will apply to any governmental debt relief during that time period but is also generally drafted to apply to debts discharged by higher educational institutions.
- \$8.5 billion for Provider Relief Fund for rural providers.
- Boost to **COBRA premium assistance** from 85 to 100 percent.
- Allows eligible entities under Save Our Stages program to receive both a PPP loan and Shuttered Venue Operators Grant.
- \$5.5 billion for **school programs**, including summer school and afterschool programs and technology.

Other Resources:

- The National Association of Counties analysis of the Senate bill and calculations for per-county allocations. Analysis [here](#) and calculations found by clicking "Summary of Local Funding in Senate Substitute".

House-passed text [here](#). House Committee summaries below:

- **Ways and Means:** press release [here](#) (with links to text and section by section summaries), Joint Committee on Taxation summary [here](#)
- **Energy and Commerce:** more details specific to health response funding are [here](#), section by section in the committee memo [here](#), public health text [here](#), Medicaid

- **Education and Labor:** press release [here](#), fact sheet [here](#), section by section [here](#), text [here](#)
- **Small Business:** committee print [here](#), text [here](#)
- **Transportation and Infrastructure:** text [here](#)
- **Financial Services:** committee print [here](#), section by section in the committee memo [here](#), text [here](#)
- **Agriculture:** text [here](#)
- **Veterans Affairs:** text [here](#), section by section [here](#)

Passed Legislation

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

New Implementation Information and Guidance

- The Treasury Department [announced](#) they have begun sending economic impact payments to individuals as a result of the American Rescue Plan.

Members of Congress Affected by COVID-19

New additions in bold. As of January 15, the below list only includes members of the 117th Congress and thus is not cumulative across Congresses. **As of 3/15/2021, over 75 percent of Members of Congress have been vaccinated.**

Tested Positive Recently (0):

Died from COVID-19 (1): Rep. Ron Wright (R-TX)

Recovered from COVID-19 (68): Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY), 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. Dan Meuser (R-PA), Rep. Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon (R-Puerto Rico at large), 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), Rep. Brian Steil (R-WI), Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT), Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-TX), Rep. Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV), Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA), Rep. Ted Budd (R-NC), Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL), Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA), Rep. Barry Loudermilk (R-GA), Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA), Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC), Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL), Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA), Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI), Rep. Maria Salazar (R-FL), Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX), Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX), Rep. Michelle Steel (R-CA), Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Rep. Jake LaTurner (R-KS), Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN), Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ), Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA), Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL), Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-NY), Rep. Lou Correa (D-CA), Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-CA), Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA), Rep. Lori Trahan (D-MA)

Don Beyer (D-VA), Rep. Sharice Davids (D-KS), Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ), Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL), Rep. Jason Crow (D-CO), Rep. Julia Brownley (D-CA), Sen. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), Rep. Stephanie Murphy (D-FL), Rep. John Yarmuth (D-KY), Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), Rep. Vincente Gonzalez (D-TX), 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), 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), Rep. Randy Weber (R-TX), Rep. Mike Johnson (R-LA), Rep. Jody Hice (R-GA), Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA), 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. Mark Pocan (D-WI), Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA)



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