March 18, 2020

Senate Passes HR 6201; President Invokes Defense Production Act; Work Begins on Relief Plan 3

SENATE PASSES HR 6201, RELIEF PACKAGE 2

The Senate passed the House coronavirus relief bill 90-8 without changes Wednesday, freeing up Congress to focus more energy on passing subsequent legislation. The “no” votes included Sens. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), James Lankford (R-Okla.), Mike Lee (R-Utah), Rand Paul (R-Ky.), Ben Sasse (R-Neb.), Tim Scott (R-S.C.) and Ron Johnson (R-Wisc.).

The deal, negotiated between Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, includes free coronavirus testing — even for the uninsured; two weeks of paid sick and family leave; increased federal funds for Medicaid and food security programs, like food stamps; and increased unemployment insurance benefits.

The bill is considered “phase two” of Congress' coronavirus legislative efforts, and negotiations over a “phase three” deal are already underway. It's still unclear how much it will cost, and the Congressional Budget Office has not yet scored it. The Senate will now turn to negotiations on Package 3.

CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION TURN TO PACKAGE 3

McConnell said the Senate will stay in session until “phase three” is passed. Senate Republicans are driving the process, and they are working with closely with Treasury and the White House to reach a deal as soon as possible.

The White House is pushing for an additional $1 trillion to be dedicated to combatting the economic effects of the virus. The Treasury fact sheet proposes sending checks to many Americans and devoting $300 billion to helping small businesses. The fact sheet also calls for the creation of a $50 billion “airline industry secured lending facility” that would allow it to make direct loans to “U.S. passenger and cargo air carriers.”

The House, which is currently in recess, does not plan to return to Capitol Hill until after the Senate passes a third bill.
PRESIDENT INVOKES THE DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT

President Trump is invoking the Defense Production Act. Gives him emergency authority to call on private sector to supply essential equipment for national defense. The Defense Production Act (DPA) is the primary source of Presidential authorities to expedite and expand the supply of resources from the U.S. industrial base to support military, energy, space, and homeland security programs. Homeland security programs eligible for DPA support include:

- Efforts to counter terrorism within the United States;
- Emergency preparedness activities conducted pursuant to title VI of the Stafford Act;
- Protection and restoration of critical infrastructure; and
- Continuity of Government.

Further info on what this Act does [here](#).

ADDITIONAL ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE ADMINISTRATION

**Housing and Finance**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development will be suspending all foreclosures and evictions until the end of April. FHFA and VA issued similar announcements

*The California Governor issued Executive Order N-28-20 on March 16 that addressed foreclosures and evictions related to the COVID-19 crisis ([Link to executive Order N-28-20](#))*

**HHS and FDA**

The President announced there will be a second news conference to discuss new FDA findings after reduction of red tape soon.

Department of Health and Human Services is working to allow doctors and healthcare practitioners to practice across state line.
Border Crossing Closure with Canada
President Trump and Prime Minister Trudeau spoke earlier and they came to a mutual agreement with Congress to close norther border to all non-essential crossings, will not affect trade between the two countries. POTUS tweet [here](#). This closure is likely to last 30 days and will be reassessed then.

Situational Awareness of Virus
Dr. Brix said she expects the number of confirmed cases to “dramatically increase over the next 4-5 days” as a result of faster test processing.

POTUS Shoots Down Tariff Suspension Request from the Business Community
In a [letter](#) to President Trump, a business coalition of over 160 groups urged the president to "provide tariff relief of more than $350 billion as one of the measures to help those hurting financially from the economic effects resulting from the current public health crisis." Groups that signed the letter included the National Retail Federation, the Coalition of Services Industries, the Beer Institute, the National Association of Home Builders, the American Chemistry Council and the Internet Association, showing the broad sweep of American industries impacted by Trump's duties. The President rejected the plea in response to a question at today's press conference.

Below, please find additional information and resources for your business/organization, your community, and your family.

- Coronavirus Response Package - [H.R. 6201 as passed the Senate](#)
- COVID Policy Options - [Coronavirus policy proposals could draw from past packages](#)
- Bloomberg - [Coronavirus Update](#)

For background and the most up-to-date information, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Disease 2019 website: [HERE](#)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:
- Twitter ([here](#))
- Facebook ([here](#))

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
- Twitter ([here](#))
- Facebook ([here](#))

What you should know:
- [How COVID-19 Spreads](#)
- [Symptoms](#)
- [Prevention & Treatment](#)
- [Testing](#)
• Frequently Asked Questions
• What to Do If You Are Sick with COVID-19
• Stigma Related to COVID-19
• What You Need to Know
• What to Do If You Are Sick with COVID-19
• Facts about COVID-19
• Information for People at Higher Risk and Special Populations
• Communication Resources

Situation Updates:
• Situation Summary
• Cases in the U.S.
• Global Locations with COVID-19
• Risk Assessment
• CDC in Action: Preparing Communities

Information for Businesses:
• Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers
• Information for Communities, Schools, and Businesses
• Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations – Community Facilities
• DOL: OHSA Resources for Workers and Employers on COVID-19
• WHO: Get Your Workplace Ready for COVID-19
• CISA: Risk Management for COVID-19
• EPA: Disinfectants for Use Against COVID-19
• PDF

Information for Travel and Transportation:
• Information for Travel
• Guidance for Ships
• Guidance for Airlines and Airline Crew
- State: Travel Advisories
- State: Traveler's Checklist
- State: Smart Traveler Enrollment Program
- DOT: FAQs from FTA Grantees Regarding COVID-19

**Information for Healthcare Providers, First Responders, and Research Facilities:**

- Information for Healthcare Professionals
- Resources for State, Local, Territorial and Tribal Health Departments
- Resources for Healthcare Facilities
- Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with COVID-19 or Persons Under Investigation in Healthcare Settings
- Information for Laboratories
- Resources for First Responders
- Guidance for Nursing Homes
- Guidance for Public Health Professionals Managing People with COVID-19 in Home Care and Isolation Who Have Pets or Other Animals
- FAQs and Considerations for Patient Triage, Placement and Hospital Discharge
- What Law Enforcement Personnel Need to Know
- Guidance for Homeless Shelters
- CMS: Information on COVID-19 and Current Emergencies
- EPA: Disinfectants for Use Against COVID-19
- PDF

**Information for Families and Households:**

- Information on COVID-19 for Pregnant Women and Children
- Interim Guidance for Household Readiness
- Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations for U.S. Households
- Guidance for Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in Homes and Residential Communities
- FAQ: COVID-19 and Children
EPA: Disinfectants for Use Against COVID-19

PDF

Information for Schools and Childcare Providers:
- Interim Guidance for Administrators of U.S. Childcare Programs and K-12 Schools
- Resources for Institutes of Higher Education
- Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations – Community Facilities
- DOEd: Resources for Schools and School Personnel
- EPA: Disinfectants for Use Against COVID-19
- PDF

Information for Community Events and Gatherings:
- Interim Guidance for Mass Gatherings and Large Community Events
- Interim Guidance for Community- and Faith-Based Organizations
- EPA: Disinfectants for Use Against COVID-19
- PDF

Information for Military Response:
- DOD: Department of Defense Coronavirus Response

Click [here](#) to view the live tracking of COVID-19 by Johns Hopkins University

Get the latest news & insight from MBS

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