

Legislative Scan: COVID-19

Week of April 20, 2020

East Additions:

- [NJ S 2351](#) - Affords employment protections to certain emergency medical responders.
- [PR B 2428](#) - Bill passed to amend Article 6 of Act No. 180-1998 to add a subsection to provide an employee infected or suspected of being infected with the disease or illness that caused the state of emergency the right to a special paid leave of five working days.
- [DC B23-0733](#) - Passed to provide, on emergency basis, additional authority to the Mayor and to address critical needs of DC residents and businesses during COVID-19, including wage replacement, business relief, and additional authorities and exemptions regarding health and public safety.

Summary:

This week, New Jersey continued its efforts to protect workers during COVID-19. Bill 2351 passed both chambers. The bill protects certain medical emergency responders that may miss work due to responding to the COVID-19 crisis.

Puerto Rico amended an existing act to protect employees infected or suspected to be infected with special paid leave of up to five days.

District of Columbia passed another emergency act to give additional authority to the Mayor during this time of crisis. The act was passed in hopes that the mayor would address needs such as wage replacement, business relief, government operation, consumer protection, as well as the issuance of notes and bonds for the district.

West Additions:

- [Utah HJR 301](#) - Urges state and local government entities to exercise fiscal responsibility with the remainder of their 2020 budgets and to plan to continue limit spending in the fiscal year beginning on a specified date and ending on a specified date.
- [SJR 301](#) - Approves acceptance by the state of Utah of certain federal funds in response to COVID-19.
- [SB 3004](#) - Enacts the Coronavirus Disease Health and Economic Response Act; creates the Public Health and Economic Emergency Commission to advise and make recommendations to the Governor regarding the state's response to the coronavirus emergency; establishes the membership and duties of the Commission; requires the Commission to provide a plan by a certain date to the Governor that moves the state to a less urgent response level; addresses the Governor's response to the Commission's plan.

Summary:

The West was quiet on the legislative front other than Utah who passed two resolutions and a bill. Utah focused its work on fiscal responsibility, urging state and local governments to

continue limiting spending. Utah also approved the acceptance of federal funds, which will hopefully replenish some of the state and local spending due to COVID-19. Finally, Utah created a commission that will provide plans and advice to the Governor regarding the state's responses to the pandemic.

There were no additions in the Midwest this week.

There were no additions in the South this week.