

Legislative Scan: COVID-19

Week of June 18, 2020

South Additions:

Georgia [HR 1507](#) - Amends the Rules of the House of Representatives so as to allow for virtual meetings of the House of Representatives.

Summary:

The south was fairly quiet this week with Georgia only passing one bill amending the rules to allow for virtual House of Representatives meetings.

Midwest Additions:

Illinois [S 264](#) - Makes supplemental appropriations from the General Revenue Fund for the current fiscal year.

Illinois [H 357](#) - Makes changes in state programs that are necessary to implement the state budget for the upcoming fiscal year, provides for the Local Coronavirus Urgent Remediation Emergency, or CURE, Support Program, provides for grants to local tourism and convention bureaus, provides for allocations of Local CURE Support Program funds, sets forth powers of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Illinois [S 2135](#) - Establishes the Restore Illinois Collaborative Commission to participate in and provide input on plans to revive the various sectors of the state's economy in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, provides for universal no cost broadband internet access, provides for public entity meetings, provides for remote witnessing and notarization, provides emergency powers for the Secretary of State.

Minnesota [H 5](#) - Relates to economic development, appropriates money for emergency small business grants and loans, reimburses the Minnesota 21st Century Minerals Fund, adjusts the budget reserve forecast calculation, changes the fund receiving small business loan repayments.

Summary:

The Midwest this week had bills from Illinois and Minnesota regarding the economy and balancing budgets. States are working hard to allocate funds and revive the state economy as businesses are struggling due to the pandemic.

East Additions:

New York [S 7996](#) - Amends the Education Law, relates to the attendance of minors upon full day instruction and the conditions, provides that school districts are entitled to an apportionment of state aid for the closure of schools due in response to the novel coronavirus.

New York [S 8181](#) - Amends the General Municipal Law, in relation to establishing a state disaster emergency loan program to address the outbreak of novel coronavirus, provides for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof.

New York [S 8182](#) - Amends the Education Law, in relation to authorizing licensed pharmacists to administer an approved vaccine for coronavirus, provides for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof.

New York [S 8243](#) - Relates to the forbearance of residential mortgage payments, requires state regulated banking organizations to make applications for forbearance for residential mortgages available to qualified mortgagors as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, and to grant such applications for a specified period.

New York [S 8362](#) - Requires that coronavirus contact tracers be representative of the cultural and linguistic diversity of the communities in which they serve to the greatest extent possible, provides for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof.

New York [S 8410](#) - Amends the Education Law, relates to aid for library construction, provides that public libraries that received aid for projects commencing July 1, 2017 through July 1, 2019 that are unable to complete such projects due to the state disaster emergency declared pursuant to Executive Order No. 202, as amended, shall be provided an additional twelve months from the statutory project end date to complete such projects.

New York [S 8419](#) - Enacts the emergency rent relief act of 2020 to establish an interim residential rent relief program.

New York [S 8428](#) - Relates to expenditures and temporary transfers of reserve funds for expenses related to state disaster emergency, relates to issuing a moratorium on utility termination of services during periods of pandemics and/or state of emergencies, relates to the forbearance of residential mortgage payments for qualified mortgagors for a period of up to 180 days with the option to extend for an additional 180 days, relates to hearings conducted on a felony complaint during a state.

Vermont [S 343](#) - Delays special education funding from a reimbursement model to a census based model due to the coronavirus state of emergency, delays the requirement that certain approved independent schools enroll students on an individual education program.

Vermont [H 948](#) - Authorizes municipalities to hold any municipal quasi-judicial proceeding through electronic means and suspend requirements for certain in person inspections of property subject to appeal in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Vermont [H 951](#) - Establishes the Municipal Emergency Statewide Education Property Tax Borrowing Program, authorizes the State Treasurer to assist municipalities by making payments on the costs of short term borrowings required to manage the cash flow effects of statewide education property tax deferrals or delays in receipt of such taxes by municipalities as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Vermont [H.953](#) - Relates to current fiscal year supplemental budget adjustments related to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Summary:

New York and Vermont were busy in the eastern region this week. Both states passed a handful of bills amending and creating legislation to allow for the allocation of funds to education and welfare programs. New York passed a rent relief program to help out the state during the interim as many people have had a hit to regular income due to the pandemic. Among the work in Vermont this week was a bill allowing for the state treasurer to authorize funding for municipalities to manage the required cash flow from property tax towards education, since many states are delaying those property tax payments from residents.

West Additions:

Colorado [HJR 1011](#) - Concerns supporting the call for a federal investigation into possible market manipulation by the meatpacking industry during the coronavirus pandemic.

Summary:

Colorado made the only move in the west this week with a bill calling for a federal investigation into possible market manipulation by the meatpacking industry. The meatpacking industry has obviously been hit severely due to the coronavirus pandemic and trying to stay afloat while preventing the spread of the virus.