Legislative Scan: COVID-19

Week of July 6, 2020

**South Additions:**

Louisiana [HB 7](https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=201ES&b=HB7&sbi=y) - Appropriates funds for the expenses of the judiciary for upcoming fiscal year, includes funding to the Judicial Control Board for eligible expenses related to coronavirus response efforts.

Louisiana [HB 8](https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=201ES&b=HB8&sbi=y) - Makes appropriations for the expenses of the legislature for Fiscal Year.

Louisiana [HB 17](https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=201ES&b=HB17&sbi=y) - Provides for employers covered by the Parochial Employees' Retirement System, provides for employers that choose such coverage.

Louisiana [HB 29](https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=201ES&b=HB29&sbi=y) - Makes supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year.

Louisiana [HB 59](https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=201ES&b=HB59&sbi=y) - Relates to limitations of liability for public school districts during the coronavirus public health emergency, provides relative to the liability of public and nonpublic schools, public and nonpublic school systems, and charter school governing boards under certain circumstances, provides for liability related to school sponsored events, provides relative to the liability of public and nonpublic postsecondary education systems and institutions.

Mississippi [HB 1729](http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/2020/pdf/history/HB/HB1729.xml) - Authorizes an income tax credit for costs and expenses incurred for the rehabilitation of certain historic structures, removes the provision that excludes single family dwellings from the definition of the term eligible property, removes the provision that authorizes a taxpayer to elect to receive a rebate on the amount of the credit in excess of specified sum in lieu of the ten year carryforward, increases the amount aggregate amount of tax credits that may be awarded.

Mississippi [SB 3048](http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/2020/pdf/history/SB/SB3048.xml) - Extends the deadline for free port warehouses to submit the required inventory to the Tax Assessor due to coronavirus.

North Carolina [H 77](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2019/H77) - Adjusts the Department of Transportation certified budget for the upcoming fiscal year, implements governance measures and other modifications related to the operations of the Department.

North Carolina [S 208](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/Senate/PDF/S208v5.pdf) - Provides immunity for institutions of higher education for claims related to coronavirus closures for Spring 2020.

North Carolina [H 308](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/House/PDF/H308v7.pdf) - Provides further regulatory relief to the citizens of the state, provides for the On Site Wastewater Contractors and Inspectors Certification Board, allows the Division of Coastal Management to accept electronic payments, allows the Department of Environmental Quality to establish emergency measures and procedures applicable to solid waste management during a state of emergency, provides for abandoned and derelict vessels.

North Carolina [S 361](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/Senate/PDF/S361v8.pdf) - Enacts the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact, allows licensed marriage and family therapists to conduct first level commitment examinations, eliminates redundancy in adult care home inspections, ensures the proper administration of step therapy protocols, clarifies the use of coronavirus relief funds allocation to the Community Health Center Association.

North Carolina [S 681](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/Senate/PDF/S681v6.pdf) - Enacts agency policy directives for the current fiscal biennium consistent with policy directives in ratified House Bill 966, modifies staffing in the Office of Recovery and Resiliency, clarifies that parties to an intergovernmental support agreement with a major military installation that operates a PSAP may use 911 funds for Next Generation 911 System compatibility.

North Carolina [S 808](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/Senate/PDF/S808v8.pdf) - Appropriates funds for the Dorothea Dix Campus Relocation Project and for North Carolina Families Accessing Services through Technology, appropriates coronavirus relief funds for behavioral health and crisis services, early childhood initiatives, and coronavirus testing, contact tracing, and trends tracking and analysis, appropriates funds for the operation of the Medicaid Program and the implementation of Medicaid transformation, makes Medicaid transformation related changes.

North Carolina [S 816](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/Senate/PDF/S816v5.pdf) - Appropriates funds for enrollment growth at the state's community colleges, appropriates funds for additional cooperative innovative high schools, directs the Department of Public Instruction to report on the funding for cooperative innovative high schools by development tier area location, appropriates funds for the Coronavirus Relief Fund to be used to offset General Fund appropriations.

North Carolina [H 902](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/House/PDF/H902v6.pdf) - Provides that the Division of Purchase and Contract shall review protests on contracts and receive reports on emergency purchases by state departments, institutions, and agencies, if the dollar amount exceeds the expenditure benchmark established by the Secretary of Administration, provides procurement simplification and increased accountability.

**Summary:**

Deadline extensions, tax credits, and supplemental fund appropriations were hot across the south this week. Louisiana and North Carolina lead the field in passing legislation appropriating funds to various departments and programs. Schools were a top priority for funds distribution. Louisiana also passed a bill to alter the limitations of liability for public, private, and charter schools amid the coronavirus public emergency.

**Midwest Additions:**

[IL S 1864](https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/101/SB/PDF/10100SB1864lv.pdf) - Revises provisions relating to the Health Information Exchange Authority, provides for the coronavirus public health emergency in relation to Medicare and Medicaid services and the duties of the Departments of Health and Human Services, provides that persons who are not otherwise eligible for medical assistance but may qualify for the duration of the coronavirus emergency shall be limited to certain products and services, provides for coverage of clinical trials.

[IL S 2541](https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/101/SB/PDF/10100SB2541lv.pdf) - Provides for the expeditious and timely implementation of changes made to the Public Aid Code, provides for applications to close a health care facility, increases rates of reimbursement for physician services, revises provisions relating to annual assessments on hospitals, makes appropriations, provides for the continuation of hospital access payments and the recovery of payments.

**Summary:** Illinois was the only state in the Midwest to address the pandemic this week. The two bills passed – S 1864 and S 2541 – both relate to health care and its associated costs.

**East Additions:**

Massachusetts H 4835 - Relates to the establishment of a joint oversight committee to make an investigation and study of the Soldiers Home in Holyoke coronavirus outbreak.

Vermont [H 955](https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2020/Docs/BILLS/H-0955/H-0955%20As%20Passed%20by%20Both%20House%20and%20Senate%20Official.pdf) - Adjusts the Capital Construction Budget for the upcoming fiscal year, relates to capital construction and state bonding budget adjustments.

Vermont [H 960](https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2020/Docs/BILLS/H-0960/H-0960%20As%20Passed%20by%20Both%20House%20and%20Senate%20Official.pdf) - Addresses several health care related topics, including mental health, hospital budget reviews, the expansion of VPharm coverage for certain beneficiaries, and the review and modification of prior authorization requirements.

Vermont [H 965](https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2020/Docs/BILLS/H-0965/H-0965%20As%20Passed%20by%20Both%20House%20and%20Senate%20Official.pdf) - Makes appropriations from the Coronavirus Relief Fund for healthcare and human services related expenses as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Vermont [H 966](https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2020/Docs/BILLS/H-0966/H-0966%20As%20Passed%20by%20Both%20House%20and%20Senate%20Official.pdf) - Provides for funding and assistance for broadband connectivity, housing, and economic relief.

**Summary:**

Vermont had most of the action in the east this week. The state focused on appropriating funds, adjusting existing budgets, and providing economic relief for the coronavirus pandemic. Vermont also passed legislation addressing authorization requirements for several health care fields, including mental health, hospital budget review, and expansion of VPharm coverage. Massachusetts was the only other eastern state with activity – passing legislation to form an oversight committee to investigate a soldiers home’s coronavirus outbreak.

**West Additions:**

[CA A 79](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB79) - Extends the requirement for nonbiometric identity verification methods in the CalWORKs program. Clarifies that individuals who are not required to participate, and express an intent to participate voluntarily, or sanctioned participants who indicate an intent to engage in any program activity or employment, pursuant to program rules, are eligible to receive childcare.

[CA S 116](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB116) - Sets the maximum Cal Grant A and B awards for students attending an independent institution of higher education. Suspends the operation of the Dreamer Service Incentive Grant Program and redirects local assistance funds available for the Program to provide disaster relief emergency student financial aid. Authorizes grants for the Golden State Teacher Grant Program. Provides for on campus food pantries and distributions.

[CO S 209](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2020a_209_signed.pdf) - Concerns bills enacted in the second regular session of the Seventy Second General Assembly that includes an act relating to the coronavirus disease emergency subject to a petition clause.

[CO S 212](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2020a_212_signed.pdf) - Concerns reimbursement for health care services or mental health care services provided through telehealth, imposes restrictions on health insurance carriers, provides minimum standards for home care agencies and home care placement agencies.

[HI H 2500](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2020/bills/HB2500_SD1_.pdf) - Authorizes issuance of general obligation bonds, authorizes issuance of instruments of indebtedness in an amount that may be necessary to finance any permitted purpose, makes findings required by article VII, section 13, of the state constitution regarding the issuance of authorized bonds and the debt limit.

[HI S 3139](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2020/bills/SB3139_HD1_.pdf) - Authorizes the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds of a specified sum, provides that the appropriation made for the capital improvement project authorized by the specified section shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year for which the appropriation is made, provides that all moneys from the appropriation unencumbered as of specified date, shall lapse as of that date.

[NM S 3](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/20%20Special/final/SB0003.pdf) - Relates to small business recovery act of 2020.

[OR H 4204](https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2020S1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4204) - Provides strategies to protect state residents from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, establishes temporary limitations on lenders being able to enforce default remedies on obligations secured by mortgages, trust deeds, land sale contracts, or other instruments.

[OR H 4212](https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2020S1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4212) - Authorizes public bodies to conduct public meetings virtually, provides that recovery rebate payments made under the CARES Act are not subject to garnishment, authorizes the extension of court proceedings, requires local governments to allow siting of qualifying emergency shelters, allows individual development accounts to be established for emergency savings, allows physician assistants to perform services without entering into practice agreements and streamlines certain requirements.

[OR H 4213](https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2020S1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4213) - Prohibits residential and commercial evictions under specified conditions during the coronavirus public health emergency period.

[UT S 5011](https://le.utah.gov/~2020S5/bills/static/SB5011.html) - Allows the Department of Health and local health departments to share certain data regarding Coronavirus disease 2019 patients with state agencies for analysis, enacts provisions relating to Coronavirus disease 2019 testing of certain individuals at care facilities, requires the Department of Health to collect and publish information relating to risk factors for Coronavirus disease 2019.

**Summary:** There was a large amount of diverse activity in the West this week across multiple states. California and Oregon showed some similarities by focusing on legislation that directly helped some of the social determinants people may be facing during the pandemic, such as access to childcare and grants for students (CA A 79 and S 116), and limitations on lenders and evictions (OR H 4204 and H 4213). Hawaii and New Mexico also shoed similarities by focusing on fiscal impacts of the pandemic as Hawaii authorized the issuance of general obligation bonds (HI H 2500 and S 3139) while New Mexico enacted the Small Business Recovery Act of 2020 and issued recovery loans (NM S 3). Colorado and Utah shared a little bit of similarity this week as well as both states passed legislation referring to the more technical side of health care as Colorado sought to address reimbursement for health care or mental health care services provided through telehealth (CO S 212) and Utah sought to increase the effectiveness of data sharing and information collection among the Department of Health and local health departments (UT S 5011).