

Legislative Scan: COVID-19

Week of June 26, 2020

Midwest:

[IL S 1569](#) - Amends the School Code, revises provisions relating to the Panel, provides for remote learning days due to a declared public health emergency, revises provisions relating to IEP meeting protections, provides for Organizational Units, revises the criteria for certified teachers.

[IA S 2338](#) - Relates to civil actions, including recoverable damages for medical expenses, evidence offered to prove past medical expenses, and civil actions related to the novel coronavirus, and including retroactive applicability provisions.

[MI SR 125](#) - Denounces administration policy on placing COVID-19-positive residents in nursing homes.

[MI HR 276](#) - Opposes administration policies regarding placement of Coronavirus positive patients in nursing homes.

[MI S 940](#) - Delays the deadline to file a principal residence declaration under certain circumstances related to the coronavirus emergency declaration.

[MN HF 11](#) - Relates to human services, modifies provisions relating to child care, foster care, disability services, community supports, civil commitment, maltreatment of minors, child protection, and child support, expands the definition of providers for the Child Care Assistance Program, requires students in foster care who change schools to be enrolled within seven days, requires responsible social services agencies to initiate and facilitate phone calls between parents and foster care providers for children.

[MN S 45](#) - Relates to state government, makes temporary adjustments to gambling control laws in response to COVID 19.

[MN H 105](#) - Relates to human services, extends the expiration of the Executive Order relating to use of telemedicine in the State Medical Cannabis Program, extends the expiration of certain human services program waivers and modifications issued by the Commissioner of Human

Services pursuant to Executive Orders during the peacetime emergency declared in response to the Coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

Summary:

Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and Minnesota saw additions in the Midwest this week. Illinois amended the school code to help schools navigate the unique distanced learning situation brought about by the pandemic. Iowa focused on medical expenses in a civil action sense. Michigan denounced and opposed administration policy on placing COVID-19-positive residents in nursing homes. Lastly, Minnesota passed three bills, two of which related to human services for children and telemedicine respectively. The third Minnesota bill, S 45, related to gambling control during COVID-19.

West:

[CA A 860](#) - Requires county elections officials to mail a ballot to every registered voter for the November 3, 2020, statewide general election. Requires county elections officials to permit any voter to cast a ballot using a certified remote accessible vote by mail system. Extends the deadline by which vote by mail ballots must be received.

[CO S 222](#) - Concerns a grant program for small businesses affected by economic hardship caused by the coronavirus pandemic that is financed by money received from the federal government pursuant to the CARES Act.

[CO H 1197](#) - Concerns the statewide communication system for referral to essential services, requires the 211 Collaborative to provide necessary human services referral services in the state through a specified date relating to the coronavirus public health emergency, including information on coronavirus test site locations, makes an appropriation from the CARES Subfund.

[CO H 1360](#) - Concerns the provision for payment of the expenses of the executive, legislative, and judicial departments of the state of Colorado, and of its agencies and institutions, for and during the fiscal year beginning a specified date, except as otherwise noted.

[CO H 1410](#) - Concerns assistance for individuals facing a housing related hardship due to coronavirus, transfers money received from the federal government pursuant to the CARES Act to the Eviction Legal Defense Fund and the Housing Development Grant Fund to provide such assistance, makes an appropriation.

[CO H 1411](#) - Concerns the allocation of money the state received from the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund for behavioral health services.

[CO H 1412](#) - Concerns assistance for individuals unable to pay their utility bills due to economic hardship caused by the coronavirus, transfers money received from the federal government pursuant to the CARES Act to the Energy Outreach State Low Income Energy Assistance Fund to provide such assistance.

[CO H 1413](#) - Establishes a state and private investor funded small business recovery loan program, authorizes the Department of the Treasury to obtain the state share of funding for the program by selling insurance premium tax credits to qualified taxpayers, authorizes the State Treasurer to contract with a program manager to establish and administer the program.

[CO H 1417](#) - Establishes administrative conditions related to money in the General Fund from the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund that apply to an allocation established in separate legislation until the unspent money remaining in the CARE Subfund is transferred to the Unemployment Compensation Fund on a specified date.

[CO H 1422](#) - Creates the Food Pantry Assistance Grant Program, authorizes an allocation of money the state receives from the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund.

[NM HR 1](#) - Relates to emergency house rules.

[NM SR 1](#) - Enacts and suspending certain senate rules for the remainder of the fifty-fourth legislature to allow remote participation of members and provide procedures to conduct proceedings of the senate during a public health emergency.

Summary: The West additions were dominated by Colorado this week with California and Minnesota passing bills as well. California is looking to vote primarily by mail-in ballots this year with the passage of A 860 which requires county elections officials to mail a ballot to all registered voters for the November general election. Minnesota passed two bills relating to emergency rules and remote participation in the legislature. Colorado passed nine bills, mainly focusing on small businesses relief (S 222 and H 1413), government expenses and other fiscal items related to coronavirus relief (H 1360 and H 1417), and helping citizens through legislation regarding housing costs, utility costs, food access, and access to behavioral health (H 1410, H 1412, H 1422, and H 1411). One outlier Colorado bill, H 1197, provides additional necessary human services referral services in the state for a specified duration of the pandemic.

South:

[LA HR 19](#) - Directs the Department of Health to implement certain policies for the health and safety of long-term care facility residents.

[LA SR 19](#) - Urges the Department of Health to recommend standards and curricula on the subject of implicit bias in the delivery of health care.

[MS S 2979](#) - Makes an additional appropriation of special funds to defray the expenses of the Veterans Affairs Board for the current fiscal year.

[TN H 2028](#) - Authorizes beer retailers to sell beer online for curbside pickup at the beer retailer's location in relation to the presence of coronavirus.

Summary: Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee passed bills in the South this week. Louisiana focused on the delivery of health care, especially for long-term care facilities. Mississippi made additional appropriations to the Veterans Affairs Board while Tennessee authorized curbside pickup for online beer sales.

There were no additions in the East this week.