Legislative Scan: COVID-19

Week of June 29, 2020

**South Additions:**

Florida [H 5003](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=69841) - Implements specified appropriations of the General Appropriations Act for the upcoming fiscal year.

Louisiana [HCR 1](https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=201ES&b=HCR1&sbi=y) - Provides for monies in the Budget Stabilization Fund to be available for appropriation in Fiscal Year.

Mississippi [H 1748](http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/2020/pdf/history/HB/HB1748.xml) - Revises the definition of the term gross income under the state income tax law to exclude amounts received as loans, advances, or grants under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act and amounts received as grants under the Coronavirus State Business Assistance Act.

North Carolina [S 113](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/Senate/PDF/S113v5.pdf) - Exempts certain school psychologists from State Psychology Board licensure, revises allocations of appropriations from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to establish the School Psychologists Recruitment and Retention Pilot Program, makes modifications to the upcoming school calendar requirements to expand the use of remote learning days and allow modifications for single track year round schools, clarifies that school nutrition funds from the Coronavirus Relief Fund are for emergency school nutrition services.

North Carolina [H 1080](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/House/PDF/H1080v7.pdf) - Makes various changes to the revenue laws and to codify the insurance regulatory charge.

North Carolina [H 1229](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2019/Bills/House/PDF/H1229v6.pdf) - Appropriates funds to the Division of Employment Security to strengthen unemployment insurance program integrity during the coronavirus pandemic, prevents certain payments to precinct officials from reducing unemployment insurance benefits.

Summary:

This week in the south fund appropriations were a priority in Florida, Louisiana and North Carolina. Florida and Louisiana looked to round out the fiscal years with budget stabilization funds, while North Carolina focused on strengthening the unemployment insurance program as unemployment numbers continue to rise during the pandemic. Mississippi also passed legislation this week to exclude federal coronavirus relief from falling under gross income in the state income tax law.

**Midwest Additions:**

[IA S 2310](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=SF2310) - Relates to the Iowa Learning Online initiative, relates to standards, requirements, and rules relating to online learning programs and coursework provided at the secondary school level.

[IA H 2641](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=HF2641) - Relates to state taxation and related laws of the state, includes the administration by the Department of Revenue of tax credits and refunds, income taxes, moneys and credits taxes, sales and use taxes, and partnership and pass through entity audits, modifies provisions relating to the reinstatement of business entities, provides penalties.

[IA H 2643](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=HF2643) - Relates to state and local finances, makes appropriations, provides for legal and regulatory responsibilities, provides for other properly related matters.

[MI HCR 24](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2019-2020/concurrentresolutionadopted/House/pdf/2020-HACRS-0024.pdf) - Demands that the Governor compile and make publicly available certain data, to encourage medical professionals to provide elective medical procedures, and to encourage the people of Michigan to continue to practice safe social distancing.

[MI SR 130](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2019-2020/resolutionadopted/Senate/pdf/2020-SAR-0130.pdf) - Memorializes the Congress of the United States to explore further avenues of relief for businesses affected by the coronavirus 2019 Pandemic.

[MI S 690](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2019-2020/billenrolled/Senate/pdf/2019-SNB-0690.pdf) - Provides for supplemental appropriations for the current fiscal year.

MI S 942 - Modifies liquor sale, purchase and delivery regulations for on-premises licensees.

[OH H 481](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2019-2020/billenrolled/Senate/pdf/2020-SNB-0942.pdf) - Provides for the distribution of federal coronavirus relief funding to local subdivisions, revises the formula used to determine Medicaid rates for nursing facility services, excludes loan amounts forgiven under the federal CARES Act from the commercial activity tax, allows a county, township, or municipal corporation appointing authority to establish a mandatory cost savings program in response to COVID 19, allows certain state employees' salaries and pay supplements to be frozen.

Summary:

States in the Midwest this week focused primarily on expenses tied to the pandemic, with IA H 2641 and IA H 2643 looking again at state taxation and other state and local finances while two of the three bills passed by Michigan – SR 130 and S 690 – looking at relief for businesses and other appropriations. Ohio also passed a bill relating to finances, H 481, that distributes coronavirus relief funding. Outlier bills in this region include IA S 2310 which relates to standards and rules for online learning for secondary schools and MI HCR 24 which demands the Governor take more steps to encourage elective medical procedures and also social distancing.

**East Additions:**

New Jersey [SR69](https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/SR/69_S1.PDF) - Urges us Congress to adopt legislation allowing commercial property owners to claim certain amounts of commercial tenant rent forgiveness during coronavirus pandemic as deduction against property owner's income.

New Jersey [A3](https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/A0500/3_S1.PDF) - Amends and supplements FY20 appropriations act to effectuate extension of fiscal year through a specified amount, reduces authorized appropriations, makes FY20 supplemental appropriations of specified amount in State funds and specified amount in federal funds.

New York [S8192](https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=%0D%0A&leg_video=&bn=S08192&term=2019&Summary=Y&Text=Y) - Relates to prohibiting the eviction of residential tenants who have suffered financial hardship during the coronavirus covered period.

Pennsylvania [H2418](https://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=PDF&sessYr=2019&sessInd=0&billBody=H&billTyp=B&billNbr=2418&pn=4015) - Amends the Administrative Code, relates to the organization of departmental administrative boards and commissions, and of advisory boards, provides for the State Geospatial Coordinating Board, revises provisions relating to a coronavirus debt cost reduction review.

Summary:

As the unemployment rises, states are focusing on needed funds to make it through the fiscal year and protecting constituents who have fallen on financial hardships due to the pandemic. New Jersey and New York both have now passed legislation either urging Congress to protect renters or passing their own legislation to prevent sudden evictions. Pennsylvania also passed legislation this week looking at the coronavirus debt cost reduction review.

**West Additions:**

[CA S 74](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB74) - Makes appropriations for the support of state government for the upcoming fiscal year.

[CA A 76](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB76) - Requires the warrants scheduled to be drawn in June for purposes of apportioning funding to school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools, to be drawn in July. Makes an appropriation to the State School Fund for allocation to school districts and charter schools pursuant to the local control funding formula. Defers the scheduled payment for apportionment to community college districts.

[CA A 80](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB80) - Authorizes a member of the Board or of the staff of the Health Benefit Exchange to perform volunteer services under specified conditions. Deletes provisions relative to the Health Care Cost Transparency Database. Requires the Office of Statewide Heath Planning and Development to establish the Health Care Payments Data Program and System, which would include health care data submitted by mandatory and voluntary submitters.

[CA A 81](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB81) - Establishes various enforcement mechanisms for the Department of Health Care Services to collect delinquent quality assurance fees, such as requiring the Department to assess interest on a skilled nursing facility that fails to pay all or part of the quality assurance fee. Authorizes the Department to delay approval of a new MediCal provider agreement until the full amount of the quality assurance fees is recovered in full.

[CA A 83](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB83) - Requires an applicant that participates in the statewide Homeless Management Information System to also agree to provide data elements, including health information, to the System when it becomes available. Provides that any health information provided to the System is not subject to public inspection or disclosure. Provides for programs funding recovery housing. Provides for the National Mortgage Special Deposit Fund.

[CA A 89](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB89) - Amends the Budget Act of 2020 by amending items of appropriation and making other changes.

[CA S 98](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB98) - Extends the date for completion of a standardized English language teacher observation protocol by the State Department of Education. Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to administer childcare and development programs that offer a full range of services and to reimburse contracting agencies for certain state subsidized childcare programs due to the ongoing impacts of closures and low attendance due to the coronavirus pandemic.

[CA A 100](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB100) - Establishes the Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission as a separate unit within the Office of Emergency Services. Reduces the number of Commissioners and specifies the background qualifications therefor. Includes costs reasonably related to the administration of an election during the coronavirus pandemic as an eligible expenditure that is reimbursable.

[CA A 103](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB103) - Prohibits unemployment compensation benefits paid from being charged against the reserve account of a tax rated employer for the duration of all federal unemployment compensation benefits programs specifically created to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

[CO S 28](https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb20-028) - Concerns measures to assist an individual's recovery from a substance use disorder, revises provisions relating to the Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Study Committee.

[CO S 211](https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb20-211) - Concerns limitations on certain debt collection actions, provides a temporary prohibition on extraordinary collection actions in response to the public health crisis caused by coronavirus.

[CO S 214](https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb20-214) - Concerns legislative interim committee activities, suspends legislative interim activities during the 2020 interim, changes the minimum number of meetings that the Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission must hold to be the maximum number of meetings annually that the Commission may hold, reduces an appropriation.

[CO S 215](https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb20-215) - Concerns measures to address the affordability of health insurance for state residents purchasing coverage on the individual market, establishes an enterprise to administer a health insurance affordability fee assessed on certain health insurers and a special assessment on hospitals to fund measures to reduce consumer costs for individual health coverage plans.

[CO H 1361](https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb20-1361) - Concerns the reduction of the adult dental benefit through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, reduces an appropriation.

[CO H 1365](https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb20-1365) - Concerns the fiscal sustainability of History Colorado.

[CO H 1379](https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb20-1379) - Concerns suspending the direct distribution to the public employees' retirement association for the 2020-21 state fiscal year, reduces an appropriation.

[CO H 1385](https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb20-1385) - Concerns the increased money received due to the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act, makes and reduces appropriations.

[CO H 1394](https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb20-1394) - Modifies the contribution rates to the Public Employees, Retirement Association for the Judicial Division of the Association for certain fiscal years, reduces an appropriation.

[CO H 1418](https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb20-1418) - Concerns the financing of public schools, makes and reduces appropriations.

[CO H 1425](https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb20-1425) - Concerns hospital patient visitation rights during the coronavirus pandemic.

[NM H 6](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/20%20Special/final/HB0006.pdf) - Relates to taxation, increases a temporary distribution to municipalities and counties, if federal funds are not made available, amends the definition of net operating loss deduction the Corporate Income and Franchise Tax Act to address changes made by the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, exempts CARES Act payments to health care providers from the Gross Receipts Tax, provides a temporary waiver of penalties and interest on certain tax liabilities.

[UT SCR 502](https://le.utah.gov/~2020S5/bills/static/SCR502.html) - Directs the Public Employees' Benefit and Insurance Program to reimburse to the state excess reserves held in the state insurance risk pools, finds that the reason for the reimbursement is the emergency created by the COVID 19 Novel Coronavirus.

[UT S 5001](https://le.utah.gov/~2020S5/bills/static/SB5001.html) - Supplements or reduces appropriations otherwise provided for the support and operation of state government for the current and upcoming fiscal years.

[UT S 5003](https://le.utah.gov/~2020S5/bills/static/SB5003.html) - Addresses the relationship between the governmental immunity act and immunity related to exposure to coronavirus, makes technical changes.

[UT S 5005](https://le.utah.gov/~2020S5/bills/static/SB5005.html) - Modifies the date when the Housing and Community Development Division may provide certain residential housing assistance for state residents financially harmed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, modifies provisions of the coronavirus Commercial Rental Assistance Program administered by the Governor's Office of Economic Development, including modifying definitions and modifying the requirements to receive assistance under the program and the amounts of rental assistance that may be provided.

[UT H 5005](https://le.utah.gov/~2020S5/bills/static/HB5005.html) - Moves provisions related to coverage for first responders diagnosed with Coronavirus disease 2019 from the Workers' Compensation Act to the Utah Occupational Disease Act, modifies the definition of a first responder, makes technical and conforming changes.

[UT S 5006](https://le.utah.gov/~2020S5/bills/static/SB5006.html) - Provides penalties and procedures to protect certain public safety workers from a communicable disease.

[UT H 5010](https://le.utah.gov/~2020S5/bills/static/HB5010.html) - Creates grant programs for certain entities eligible to receive funding from county Botanical, Cultural, Recreational, and Zoological Organizations or Facilities sales tax revenue and their for profit equivalents, if the entity provides activities to encourage travel and tourism in the state to benefit communities or artists affected by COVID 19 and institutions of higher education to provide education to employees displaced by COVID 19.

[UT H 5011](https://le.utah.gov/~2020S5/bills/static/HB5011.html) - Provides for an annual increase in the value of the weighted pupil unit in the Public Education Base Budget until a certain cumulative amount, makes technical changes.

[UT H 5012](https://le.utah.gov/~2020S5/bills/static/HB5012.html) - Supplements or reduces appropriations otherwise provided for the support and operation of public education for the fiscal year beginning a specified date, and ending a specified date, and for the fiscal year beginning a specified date, and ending a specified date.

[UT S 5012](https://le.utah.gov/~2020S5/bills/static/SB5012.html) - Modifies provisions necessary to facilitate modifications made during the 2020 Fifth Special Session to the budgets for the current and upcoming fiscal years.

Summary:

The West saw a large increase in state action this week across multiple categories. California, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah each passed bills related to fiscal and social concerns for states, ranging from appropriations for schools (CA A 76) to taxes (NM H 6) to the address of broader social determinants faced by citizens (such as housing assistance with UT S 5005 and CA A 83, and the affordability of health insurance as seen with CO S 215).