



COVID-19 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 03/18/2020

Administration

- President Donald Trump said the U.S. and Canada have agreed to close the border between the two countries to non-essential traffic as coronavirus spreads.
- The Treasury Department has proposed a response package which includes: (1) \$50 billion for an Airline Industry Secured Lending Facility; (2) \$150 billion for other severely distressed sectors; (3) Temporarily permitting the use of the Exchange Stabilization Fund to guarantee Money Market Mutual Funds; (4) Two rounds of direct payments to individual taxpayers, with \$250 billion to be issued on April 6 and on May 18; and (5) \$300 billion for a small business interruption loan program.
- President Trump announced the following action: (1) he was invoking the Defense Production Act (DPA); (2) the Administration was preparing to send two hospital ships to respond to the crisis; (3) the Administration was taking additional actions to expand testing capacity; and (4) he had directed the Department of Housing and Urban Development to suspend all evictions and foreclosures until the end of April.
- The Federal Reserve Board announced: (1) the [establishment](#) of a Primary Dealer Credit Facility (PDCF) to support the credit needs of households and businesses; and (2) the [establishment](#) of a Commercial Paper Funding Facility (CPFF) to support the flow of credit to households and businesses.

Senate

- The Senate passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201) by a vote of 90-8. The Senate voted down amendments from Senators Rand Paul (R-KY), Patty Murray (D-WI), and Ron Johnson (R-WI). The bill will now go to the President for his signature.
- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) noted that Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Susan Collins (R-ME) are working on small business provisions of the third response package; Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) is determining the best pathway to put money directly in the hands of the American people; Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) is working on the public health response; and Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS) and others are considering the possibility of providing targeted relief for key industries that are shouldering an outsized burden from the public health directives.
- Senator and presidential candidate Bernie Sanders (I-VT) proposed providing \$2,000 per month to every American household to stem the economic damage from the coronavirus.

House

- House Democrats are reportedly seeking the inclusion of an extension of the electric vehicle tax credit and other clean energy tax incentives in the third coronavirus response package.

States/Local Governments

- Alabama postponed its Republican senate primary runoff election from March 31 to July 14.
- Kansas Governor Laura Kelly announced that all schools in the state would remain closed for the remainder of the school year.
- California Governor Gavin Newsom stated that California is likely to close all schools for the remainder of the school year.
- The New York Metro Transit Authority (MTA) has requested a \$4 billion bailout.