

# **American Hotel & Lodging Association**

## **Coronavirus Federal Legislation Summaries for Lodging**

### **Families First Coronavirus Response Act**

This bill responds to the coronavirus outbreak by providing paid sick leave and free coronavirus testing, expanding food assistance and unemployment benefits, and requiring employers to provide additional protections for health care workers. Specifically, the bill provides FY2020 supplemental appropriations to the Department of Agriculture (USDA) for nutrition and food assistance programs, and the Department of Health and Human Services for nutrition programs that assist the elderly. The supplemental appropriations provided by the bill are designated as emergency spending. In addition, the bill requires the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue an emergency temporary standard that requires certain employers to develop and implement a comprehensive infectious disease exposure control plan to protect health care workers.

The bill also includes provisions that:

- establish a federal emergency paid leave benefits program to provide payments to employees taking unpaid leave due to the coronavirus outbreak,
- expand unemployment benefits and provide grants to states for processing and paying claims,
- require employers to provide paid sick leave to employees,
- establish requirements for providing coronavirus diagnostic testing at no cost to consumers,
- treat personal respiratory protective devices as covered countermeasures that are eligible for certain liability protections, and
- temporarily increase the Medicaid federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP).

Timeline:

Passed the House on 3/14, passed the Senate on 3/18/2020, signed by POTUS on 3/18/2020 to become law.

## H.R. 6074 - Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020

This bill provides \$8.3 billion in emergency funding in response to coronavirus, including vaccine development, support for state and local governments, and assistance for affected small businesses.

- **Food and Drug Administration** – \$61 million to facilitate the development and review, both pre-market and post-market, of medical countermeasures, devices, therapies, and vaccines to combat the coronavirus.
- **Small Business Disaster Loans** – Allows \$1 billion in loan subsidies to be made available to help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small aquaculture producers, and nonprofit organizations which have been impacted by financial losses as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. This funding could enable the Small Business Administration to provide an estimated \$7 billion in loans to these entities. In addition, provides \$20 million to administer these loans.
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** – \$2.2 billion to support federal, state, and local public health agencies to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus
- **Vaccines, Therapeutics, and Diagnostics** – More than \$3 billion for research and development of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics to prevent or treat the effects of coronavirus,
- **Healthcare Preparedness, Pharmaceuticals and Medical Supplies, Community Health Centers** – Nearly \$1 billion for procurement of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, to support healthcare preparedness and Community Health Centers, and to improve medical surge capacity
- **Emergency Telehealth Waiver:** Allows the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to waive certain Medicare telehealth restrictions during the coronavirus public health emergency. These waivers would allow Medicare providers to furnish telehealth services to Medicare beneficiaries regardless of whether the beneficiary is in a rural community. This provision would also allow beneficiaries to receive care from physicians and other practitioners in their homes. This provision is estimated to cost \$500 million.

Signed into law by POTUS on 3/6/2020