

[Labor & Employment Law Daily Wrap Up, FEDERAL LEGISLATION—Phase-four COVID-19 relief now law, \(Apr. 24, 2020\)](#)

Labor & Employment Law Daily Wrap Up

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By [Pamela Wolf, J.D.](#)

The Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act provides much-needed funding for healthcare providers, coronavirus testing, and small business loans.

On April 23, the House approved Senate amendments to the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act ([H.R. 266](#)), by a [388-5 vote](#) that saw one Democrat and four Republicans opposing the measure. The interim emergency coronavirus package is the fourth legislative response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill immediately moved to President Trump's desk, where he signed it into law on April 24.

Health and Human Services. Title I of H.R. 266 gives the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) \$75 billion in funding to reimburse hospitals and health care providers for health care related expenses or lost revenues attributable to COVID-19, according to the House Democrats' [fact sheet](#). It also provides \$25 billion to increase testing for COVID-19.

The Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act also includes coronavirus testing requirements, directing HHS to:

- Submit a report within 21 days on the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths related to COVID-19, including de-identified data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, age, sex, and geographic region, and other relevant factors of individuals tested for or diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Within 30 days of enactment, submit to Congress a COVID-19 strategic testing plan, including assistance to states, localities, territories, tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian health organizations, to test for both active infection and prior exposure including hospital-based testing, high-complexity laboratory testing, point-of-care testing, mobile testing, and other settings.

Small Business Administration. In Title II, the legislation gives the Small Business Administration \$2.1 billion to administer SBA programs funded in the bill. It also provides \$50 billion in loan subsidies to fund about \$350 billion in SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans, and \$10 billion for EIDL grants, which can be used for an advance of up to \$10,000 on a disaster loan and do not need to be repaid.

"Urgent relief is needed, and because of Congressional Democrats, this interim package provides funds for underserved small businesses, hospitals, and expanded testing to support the lives and livelihoods of the American people," House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita M. Lowey (D-N.Y.) said in a [statement](#). "However, it is disappointing that Republicans refused to support state and local governments or expand food assistance for the vulnerable. As we move on to CARES Act 2, we will continue to fight for expanded and extended support for families, businesses, and state and local governments."

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