
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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CALIFORNIA SUSPENDS LEGISLATIVE SESSION UNTIL APRIL 13, 2020

California Legislature. On March 16, 2020, the California Legislature suspended the legislative session until April 13, 2020. The legislature also approved up to \$1.100 billion in new spending to combat the COVID-19 outbreak. The legislation allows Governor Gavin Newsom to spend \$500.0 million for any item or purpose related to the California [Proclamation of State Emergency](#). The governor can also increase spending by \$50.0 million, with total spending capped at \$1.000 billion. Governor Newsom must inform the legislature three days in advance prior to spending any additional moneys. California state law prohibits the legislature from voting on bills for three days so the public can review the legislation. The governor waived that requirement on March 16, 2020.

The emergency funding will do the following:

- Increases the number of hospital beds and allows the purchase of medical equipment for COVID-19 patients.
- Provides protection to hospitals, nursing homes, and other facilities that are vulnerable to COVID-19 spread.
- Provides life-saving services to Californians in isolation and living at home.
- Supports local governments to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in homeless populations.
- Provides funding to clean child care facilities that remain open.
- Provides an additional \$100.0 million for personal protective equipment and for cleaning schools that remain open.

Elderly Remain at Home. On March 15, 2020, Governor Newsom requested that persons 65 or older remain at home; this population includes 25 of the California lawmakers. However, some of the lawmakers did attend and vote on the legislation.

COVID-19 Cases. The [California Department of Public Health](#) provides information daily related to COVID-19. As of March 18, 2020, the state has confirmed 598 cases and 13 deaths. The following provides additional information on the age groups affected:

- Age 0-17: 13 cases.
- Age 18-64: 392 cases.
- Age 65+: 188 cases.
- Unknown: 5 cases.

Other information the state provides includes:

- 24 cases are related to federal repatriation flights.
- 574 cases are related to other reasons, which include:
 - 91 cases related to travel.
 - 88 cases from person-to-person transmission.
 - 142 cases from community transmission.
 - 253 cases still under investigation.

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