

---

## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

March 27, 2020



---

Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

### COVID-19 — PENNSYLVANIA — 3/23/2020

**Cases.** The first presumptive positive case of COVID-19 in Pennsylvania was announced on March 7, 2020, and the first death was confirmed on March 18, 2020. As of March 23, 2020, Pennsylvania has tested approximately 7,200 individuals (total state population 12.8 million), with a positive case rate of 8.9%. Of those 644 positive cases, six have resulted in deaths.

**Legislative Action.** As of March 23, 2020, the Pennsylvania General Assembly remains in regular session. The Pennsylvania legislature is one that meets throughout the year and does not have a set adjournment date. The Pennsylvania House of Representatives adopted [House Resolution 834](#), permitting that during the declaration of disaster emergency issued by the governor, a member of the House may designate the majority or minority leader to cast the member's vote if the member is not present in the Hall of the House. This temporary rule also applies to committees. The Senate adopted [Senate Resolution 318](#), which permits remote participation in committee and chamber business.

**Emergency Action Taken.** On March 13, 2020, Governor Tom Wolf ordered statewide school closings. On March 16, 2020, the governor expanded the previous county-by-county shutdown of nonessential stores to cover stores statewide. Restaurants are permitted to continue takeout and delivery services. State police will assist with enforcement of the closure beginning March 23, 2020. The emergency order is in effect until further notice.

**Related Information.** Additional information related to the situation in Pennsylvania can be found at [www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx](http://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx).

LSA Staff Contact: Kent Ohms (515.725.2200) [kenneth.ohms@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:kenneth.ohms@legis.iowa.gov)

Doc ID 1133531