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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

March 30, 2020



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### NEW YORK — COVID-19 — 3/27/2020

**New York Legislature.** The New York legislature, which consists of the 150-member New York General Assembly and the 63-member New York Senate, continues to meet as necessary, and when possible, via teleconference, to address the challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. As of March 14, 2020, the New York State Capitol Building is closed to visitors.

According to the National Council of State Legislatures (NCSL), the New York legislature has proposed several pieces of legislation related to the COVID-19 virus, including:

- **[Senate Bill 7919 \(Enacted\)](#):** Temporarily expands the definition of disaster in state law to include disease outbreak and permits the governor to issue any directive necessary to respond to a state disaster emergency. Makes an appropriation of \$40.0 million from the State Purposes Account of the General Fund for responding to the outbreak of COVID-19.
- **[Assembly Bill 10182 \(Pending\)](#):** Extends the renewal of driver's licenses, non-driver identification cards, and inspections of motor vehicles for three months.
- **[Assembly Bill 10207 \(Pending\)](#):** Requires that all voting for the April 2020 presidential primary be conducted by absentee ballot; no application for such shall be necessary, and the local board of elections shall provide such ballot at least 15 days prior to April 28, 2020.
- **[Senate Bill 8109 \(Pending\)](#):** Suspends mortgages and loans from state-chartered banks and state-chartered credit unions for small businesses and restaurants that have closed or reduced services due to COVID-19.
- **[Senate Bill 8125 \(Pending\)](#):** Suspends all rent payments for certain residential tenants and small business commercial tenants if such tenant has lost employment or was forced to close the tenant's place of business, and certain mortgage payments for landlords of such tenants, in the state for 90 days in response to the outbreak of COVID-19.

Additionally, on March 2, 2020, the New York General Assembly passed a \$40.0 million COVID-19 relief package. The funding was primarily allocated to purchase healthcare equipment and supplies, as well as ensure that healthcare workers are up to date on training related to the virus pandemic.

**Related Information.** New York Governor Andrew Cuomo issued a State of Emergency Declaration on March 7, 2020. Since that time, the governor has signed an additional 10 executive orders, including:

- **Executive Order (EO) [202.1](#):** Makes health regulations more flexible in order to address capacity, essential health workers, and related resources; waives for those impacted by COVID-19 the seven-day waiting period for workers to claim unemployment insurance; requires that the state's major utilities must suspend service shutoffs to households and offer deferred payment plans during the outbreak; and eliminates the aid penalty for schools directed to close by state or local officials or those closed under a state or local declaration of emergency that do not meet 180-day requirements if they are unable to make up school days.
- **EO [202.2](#):** Requires insurance companies to waive copayments for telehealth visits to ultimately reduce the strain on the health care system and prevent further spread of the virus. Suspends the candidate petitioning process for the June primaries for congressional, State Senate, State Assembly, and judicial races.

- **EO 202.3 and EO 202.4:** Allows the state to increase hospital capacity to prepare the state's health care system for an influx of patients. Partners with the National Guard and building unions and private developers to find existing facilities, such as dormitories and former nursing homes, that can most easily be converted to medical facilities, with the goal of creating an additional 9,000 beds. Closes numerous schools. Also closes casinos, gyms, theaters, retail shopping malls, amusement parks, and bowling alleys. Closes bars and restaurants, but allows takeout to be ordered during the period of closure.
- **EO 202.5, EO 202.6, and EO 202.7:** Mandates a decrease of in-office workforce by 75.0% but exempts shipping, media, warehousing, grocery and food production, pharmacies, health care providers, utilities, banks and related financial institutions, and other industries critical to the supply chain. Announces new measures to free up staff and speed up the admission and discharge process at hospitals for 90 days. Waives mortgage payments based on financial hardship. Permits no negative reporting to credit bureaus, establishes a grace period for loan modification, removes late payment fees or online payment fees, and postpones or suspends foreclosures. Closes barbershops, hair salons, tattoo or piercing salons, nail salons, hair removal services, and related personal care services.
- **EO 202.8:** Removes any specific time limit for the commencement, filing, or service of any legal action, notice, motion, or other process or proceeding. Also updates previous EOs by requiring all nonessential members of the workforce to remain at home.
- **EO 202.9:** Waives late payment fees and any online payment fees for a period of 90 days; postpones foreclosures and evictions for 90 days; and postpones reports of late payments to credit rating agencies for 90 days.
- **EO 202.10:** Temporarily bans nonessential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason. Temporarily suspends and modifies regulations and requirements to the extent necessary for physicians, physician assistants, registered nurses, respiratory therapists, and others in health care fields in order to provide assistance in mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic.

On March 22, 2020, Governor Cuomo announced a 10-point policy plan called "[New York State on PAUSE](#)" that summarizes public, workforce, and business restrictions across the state, including encouraging the limitation of utilizing public transport and promoting social distancing, specifically among young people.

**Cases.** As of March 27, 2020, the state of New York has reported 39,140 positive cases of COVID-19 and 466 deaths. Over 23,000 of these cases are in New York City, which has reported a total of 365 deaths.

Additional information is available at [coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home).

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