



COVID-19 UPDATE

City of Gustavus, Alaska

PO Box 1

Gustavus, Alaska 99826

Phone: 907.697.2451

Fax: 907.697.2136

<https://cms.gustavus-ak.gov/>

Hello fellow community members, council members, and employees.

I wanted to reach out to every community member on behalf of myself and the city council to express both our appreciation for the efforts that you are taking to keep Gustavus safe **and** to provide some information on how the city is doing business.

Thank you for complying with the City's and State's COVID-19 recommended protocols. Keeping our friends and neighbors safe is our highest priority. This situation is fluid; if you have questions or comments please contact me or City Hall. We are a strong community with good services and great neighbors. Thank you for your efforts during this difficult time.

To keep you updated on city services, meetings, and information from other agencies, businesses, or any applicable information, the city web page will have a section that you can link to.

If you are returning from out of town, please practice social distancing. If you are coming from out of state, or from a community with confirmed cases of COVID-19, please shelter in place for 14 days. Also, please continue to monitor State and City information sites for updates.

CITY SERVICES

City services will continue as long as we can provide them safely and without increasing the risk of transmitting the COVID-19 virus. Now that there is a case in Juneau, the City is implementing the following procedures to assist in keeping our community safe.

Disposal & Recycling Center (DRC)

The DRC will operate without change to the existing schedule. However, the DRC will receive customers one at a time. Once service is complete and the customer departs the drop-off area, staff will bring the next customer forward.

Library

The library will be staffed, but the building will be closed. You are encouraged to utilize our “take-out” services when the library is open. Call the library during open hours or send an email, and we’ll be happy to check items out for you and bring them to the parking lot. Please feel free to use the WIFI in the parking lot as well. Librarians will the discretion for allowing the public into the library, please contact the library if you need to make an appointment.

Marine Facilities

At this time, Marine Facilities will continue to operate without change. Please contact City Hall if you have any questions.

Gustavus Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD)

The GVFD is operating through the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Information about the EOC can be found on the City’s web page or by contacting the GVFD. Firefighting, EMS, and other responsibilities of the GVFD have not changed.

City Hall

City Hall is closed to walk-in service unless an appointment is made to meet with the Mayor, the Clerk, or the City Administrator. The Clerk will be at the office to respond to phone calls and process mail. The Treasurer will work from home as well, but will continue to process payments, etc. at City Hall as necessary. The City Administrator will work at home but will meet at City Hall as needed. The City’s web page will provide updates from the City, as well as other organizations and information.

City Council Meetings

City Council will meet using the Zoom application to conduct meetings. Zoom can be used on your computer or your cellphone. Instructions for using Zoom can be found on the City web page. Community members can also call into the meetings using teleconferencing capabilities; contact the Clerk for the call-in number and other details.

General Information

Information from other businesses, agencies, and organizations are available on the City’s web page. A copy of HR6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (AKA Emergency Leave Act) and a summary sheet is also provided. Please understand that this draft Act is likely to be modified before adoption. As the City receives updates or new information, it will be posted.

Brittney Cannamore, Acting Mayor



SUMMARY OF FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT

H.R. 6201

Emergency Sick Leave

- Municipalities have to provide employees (can exclude health care providers and emergency responders!) who cannot work or telework with paid sick time off if the employee is:
 - (i) an employee subject to a coronavirus quarantine or isolation order;
 - (ii) an employee who has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to coronavirus concerns;
 - (iii) an employee who is experiencing symptoms of coronavirus and is seeking a medical diagnosis;
 - (iv) an employee caring for an individual described in (i) or (ii) above;
 - (v) an employee caring for a child whose school or place of care is closed, or the child care provider of the child is unavailable, due to coronavirus precautions; or

- Full-time employees shall receive 80 hours of sick leave, and part-time workers are granted leave equivalent to their average hours worked in a two-week period, with the sick leave in either instance being available for immediate use regardless of the employee's tenure at the employer.

- Paid sick time will not carry over from year to year.

- Workers taking leave for themselves will have to be paid at least their normal wage or the applicable federal, state, or local minimum wage, whichever is greater (see (i), (ii), and (iii) above).

- Workers taking time off to care for family members must be paid at two-thirds of the foregoing rate (see (iv) and (v) above)

- Sick leave is capped at \$511 per day and \$5,110 in the aggregate for leave taken in categories (i) through (iii) above.

- Sick leave is capped at \$200 per day and \$2,000 in the aggregate for leave taken in categories (iv) through (vi) above.

- Wages required to be paid under the emergency sick leave provisions will NOT be subject to the 6.2% social security payroll tax typically paid by employers on employees' wages.

- Employers with existing paid leave policies will be required to provide workers with the sick leave under this emergency program. An employer CANNOT require a worker to use any other available paid leave before using the sick time.

- Employers will be prohibited from
 - (i) requiring workers to find replacements to cover their hours during time off; or

- (ii) discharging or discriminating against workers for requesting paid sick leave or filing a complaint against the employer related to such.
- Employers will have to post a notice containing information regarding the emergency sick leave provisions; the Labor Department is to create a model notice no later than 7 days after the Act is enacted.
- The Department of Labor is authorized to issue regulations to (i) exclude certain health care providers and emergency responders from paid leave benefits, (ii) exempt small businesses with fewer than 50 employees from the paid leave requirements “when the imposition of such requirements would jeopardize the viability of the business as a going concern”, and (iii) ensure consistency between the emergency sick leave provisions and emergency family leave provisions described below.
- The above provisions will take effect no later than 15 days after the Act is enacted and expire on December 31, 2020.

Emergency Family Leave

- Municipalities have to provide up to 12 weeks of FMLA leave for employees (can exclude health care providers and emergency responders!) who have been on the job for at least 30 days, and who are unable to work or telework because they have to care for a minor child if the child’s school or place of care has been closed, or if the child care provider of that child is unavailable due to a coronavirus emergency.
- The first 10 days of leave can be unpaid (a worker could opt to use accrued vacation days or other available paid leave for those days).
- For subsequent days of leave, workers will receive a benefit from their employers equal to at least two-thirds of their normal pay rate.
- The paid leave is capped at \$200 per day and \$10,000 in the aggregate.
- Generally, the employee on leave must be restored to his or her prior position; however, this requirement does not apply to employers with fewer than 25 employees if the position held by the employee on leave no longer exists due to economic conditions or other changes in the employer’s operating conditions caused by the coronavirus pandemic, and the employer makes reasonable efforts to restore the employee to an equivalent position.
- Wages required to be paid under the emergency family leave provisions will NOT be subject to the 6.2% social security payroll tax typically paid by employers on employees’ wages.

- The Department of Labor is authorized to issue regulations to (i) exclude certain health care providers and emergency responders from paid leave benefits, and (ii) exempt small businesses with fewer than 50 employees from the paid leave requirements “when the imposition of such requirements would jeopardize the viability of the business as a going concern.”
- The above provisions will take effect no later than 15 days after the Act is enacted and expire on December 31, 2020.

Employer Tax Credits

- Refundable credits for the employer portion (but not the employee portion) of the Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) component of payroll taxes (i.e., the 6.2 percent employer portion of the Social Security tax) will be provided to employers to cover wages paid to employees for time off under the above sick leave and family leave programs.
- The sick leave credit for each employee will be for wages (including qualified health plan expenses relating to those wages) of up to \$511 per day while the employee is receiving paid sick leave to care for himself or herself, or \$200 if caring for a family member or child whose school has closed. The credit will be limited to 10 days per employee per quarter.
- The family leave credit for each employee will be for wages (including qualified health plan expenses relating to those wages) of as much as \$200 per employee per day, and \$10,000 in the aggregate for all calendar quarters.
- To prevent a double benefit, employers must include the amount of credits received in their gross income.
- Any wages taken into account in determining the credit allowed under the above emergency provisions will reduce the Code section 45S paid family and medical leave credit established by the 2017 tax reform act available to the employer.
- An employer can elect to not take the credit for a given quarter.
- The Department of the Treasury will be authorized to issue regulations or guidance relating to the credits.
- Amounts will be transferred to the social security and disability insurance trust funds from the general fund to cover the cost of the credits and lost wages.
- The above provisions will take effect on a date selected by the Treasury Secretary within the 15 days following the Act’s enactment, and end on December 31, 2020.



H.R. 6201, FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT

Emergency Paid Sick Leave

What the Bill Does

The *Families First Coronavirus Response Act* expands access to emergency paid sick leave **to as many as 87 million U.S. workers**. Many of these workers currently have no paid leave and are being forced to choose between their paycheck, their health, and the health of the people around them. This is a critical step toward protecting families' financial security and mitigating the spread of the coronavirus.

Who Is Eligible?

- Employees at companies with fewer than 500 employees
- Local, state, and federal government employees
- Employees who work under a multiemployer collective agreement and whose employers pay into a multiemployer plan.

What Are They Eligible For?

- Eligible full-time employees are entitled to two weeks (80 hours) of fully paid time off (up to \$511 per day) to self-quarantine, seek a diagnosis or preventive care, or receive treatment for COVID-19.
 - Eligible part-time employees are entitled to fully paid time off (up to \$511 per day) for the typical number of hours that they work in a typical two-week period to self-quarantine to seek a diagnosis or preventive care, or receive treatment for COVID-19.
- Eligible full-time employees are entitled to two weeks (80 hours) paid time off at two-thirds of their regular pay (up to \$200 per day) to care for a family member or to care for a child whose school has closed, or if their child care provider is unavailable due to COVID-19.
 - Eligible part-time employees are also entitled to the typical number of hours that they work in a typical two-week period at two-thirds of their typical pay (up to \$200 per day) to care for a child whose school has closed, or if their child care provider is unavailable, due to COVID-19.

Who Pays for the Emergency Paid Sick Leave?

- Employers initially front the cost of emergency paid sick leave but will be fully reimbursed by the federal government within three months.
- The reimbursement will cover both the wages paid and the employer's contribution to employee health insurance premiums during the period of leave.
- Employers will be reimbursed through a refundable tax credit that counts against employers' payroll tax, which all employers pay regardless of non-profit/for-profit status.
- Employers will submit emergency paid sick leave expenses as part of their estimated quarterly tax payments. If employer's costs more than offset their tax liability, they will get a refund from the IRS.

Emergency Paid Family Leave

What the Bill Does

In response to widespread and potentially prolonged school closures, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act* provides families with critical protections to ensure that workers can care for their children without sacrificing their paycheck.

Who Is Eligible?

- Employees at companies with fewer than 500 employees
- State and local government employees and certain federal government employees
- Employees who work under a multiemployer collective agreement and whose employers pay into a multiemployer plan

What Are They Eligible For?

- Eligible full-time employees and part-time employees are entitled to 12 weeks of job-protected leave to take care for their children in the event of a school closure or their child care provider is unavailable due to COVID-19.
- The 12 weeks of job-protected leave include two weeks of unpaid leave, followed by 10 weeks of paid leave. Eligible employees may elect or be required to overlap the initial two weeks of unpaid leave with two weeks of other paid leave they have available. Eligible employees will receive a benefit from their employers that will be no less than two-thirds of the employee's usual pay.

Who Pays for the Emergency Paid Family Leave?

- Employers initially front the cost of emergency paid sick leave but will be fully reimbursed by the federal government within three months.
- The reimbursement will cover both the wages paid and the employer's contribution to employee health insurance premiums during the period of leave.
- Employers will be reimbursed through a refundable tax credit that counts against employers' payroll tax, which all employers pay regardless of non-profit/for-profit status.
- Employers will submit emergency paid sick leave expenses as part of their estimated quarterly tax payments. If employer's costs more than offset their tax liability, they will get a refund from the IRS.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are employees at companies with more than 500 employees exempt from emergency paid sick leave?

The White House and Congressional Republicans were unified against any bill that included universal paid sick leave. Workers and families across the country do not have time for a stalemate. House Democrats made a difficult decision to provide emergency paid sick leave to tens of millions of U.S. workers rather than to no one at all.

Currently, 89 percent of employees at companies with more than 500 workers have access to paid sick leave. The *Families First Coronavirus Response Act* provides emergency paid sick leave to the workers who are least likely to have it.

Will the bill hurt small- and medium-sized businesses?

No. This bill will benefit small- and medium-sized businesses by helping them keep their workers healthy without taking on any additional costs. Every employer that provides paid leave under this bill will be fully reimbursed for the cost of both wages and health insurance premiums in no more than three months.

Does the bill exempt small businesses with fewer than 50 employees?

No. The bill does not exempt small businesses with fewer than 50 employees. Employees at these companies are eligible for emergency paid sick leave under this bill. Businesses with fewer than 50 employees can only qualify for a narrow exemption if the Department of Labor determines that providing these benefits would jeopardize the viability of the business.

Are health care workers and emergency responders exempt from the bill?

No. Health care workers and emergency responders are eligible for paid sick leave and paid family leave under this bill. Given the capacity challenges facing the health care system, employers have the discretion to exempt health care workers and emergency responders from the paid sick and paid family leave provisions. The Department of Labor also has the authority issue regulations exempting health care workers and emergency responders from the paid sick and paid family leave provisions.



H.R. 6201, FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT *Title-By-Title Summary*

The legislation guarantees free coronavirus testing, establishes paid leave, enhances Unemployment Insurance, expands food security initiatives, and increases federal Medicaid funding.

DIVISION A – Second Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020 *Prepared by the Democratic staff of the House Committee on Appropriations and the House Committee on Education and Labor*

Title I – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Food and Nutrition Service – Includes funding to ensure the domestic nutrition assistance programs have adequate resources to help those impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency. Funding is provided for:

- **The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC)** – \$500 million to provide access to nutritious foods to low-income pregnant women or mothers with young children who lose their jobs or are laid off due to the COVID-19 emergency.
- **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)** – \$400 million to assist local food banks to meet increased demand for low-income Americans during the emergency. Of the total, \$300 million is for the purchase of nutritious foods and \$100 million is to support the storage and distribution of the foods.

In addition –

- The legislation includes a general provision that allows the Department of Agriculture to approve state plans to provide emergency Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) food assistance to households with children who would otherwise receive free or reduced-price meals if not for their schools being closed due to the COVID-19 emergency. In order to be eligible, the child's school must be closed for no less than 5 consecutive days.

- Nutrition Assistance for U.S. Territories – \$100 million for USDA to provide nutrition assistance grants to Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Title II – Defense

Coverage of Testing for COVID-19 through the Department of Defense – Includes \$82 million for the Department of Defense to cover the costs of COVID-19 diagnostic testing for beneficiaries receiving care through the Defense Health Program.

Title III – Financial Services and General Government

Implementation of Tax Credits – Includes \$15 million for the Internal Revenue Service to implement tax credits for paid sick and paid family and medical leave.

Title IV – Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Coverage of Testing for COVID-19 through the Indian Health Service – Includes \$64 million for the Indian Health Service to cover the costs of COVID-19 diagnostic testing for Indians receiving care through the Indian Health Service or through an Urban Indian Health Organization.

Title V – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Senior Nutrition Program – Includes \$250 million for the Senior Nutrition program in the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to provide approximately 25 million additional home-delivered and pre-packaged meals to low-income seniors who depend on the Senior Nutrition programs in their communities.

This funding will provide meals to low-income seniors:

- who are home-bound;
- who have disabilities;
- who have multiple chronic illnesses;
- as well as caregivers for seniors who are home-bound.

ACL's Senior Nutrition grants are provided to States, territories, and eligible tribal organizations and serve more than 2.4 million individuals annually.

Nearly two-thirds of recipients of home-delivered meals report these meals as more than half of their food intake for the day.

Reimbursement for Diagnostic Testing and Services for COVID-19 in Uninsured Individuals – Includes \$1 billion for the National Disaster Medical System to reimburse the costs of COVID-19 diagnostic testing and services provided to individuals without health insurance.

Title VI – Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

Coverage of Testing for COVID-19 through the Veterans Health Administration – Includes \$60 million for the Department of Veterans Affairs to cover the costs of COVID-19 diagnostic testing for veterans receiving care through Medical Services or through Medical Community Care.

Title VII – General Provisions

Technical budgetary provisions.

In addition –

- Ensures State Emergency Operations Centers receive regular and real-time reporting on aggregate testing and case data from health departments and share that data with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

DIVISION B – Nutrition Waivers

Prepared by the Democratic staff of the House Committee on Agriculture and the House Committee on Education and Labor

Title I – Maintaining Essential Access to Lunch for Students Act

Section 2101. Short Title. The short title for the bill is the Maintaining Essential Access to Lunch for Students Act or the MEALS Act.

Section 2102. Waiver Exception for School Closures Due to COVID-19. Provides the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to issue waivers for state plans that increase costs to the federal government.

Title II – COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response Act

Section 2201. Short Title. The short title for the bill is the COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response Act.

Section 2202. National School Lunch Program Requirement Waivers Addressing COVID-19. Allows all child and adult care centers to operate as non-congregate (i.e. allows them to take food to go). Allows the Secretary of Agriculture to waive meal pattern requirements in child nutrition programs if there is a disruption to the food supply as a result of the COVID-19 emergency. Provides the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to issue nationwide school meal waivers during the COVID-19 emergency, which will eliminate paperwork for states and help more schools quickly adopt and utilize flexibilities.

Section 2203. Physical Presence Waiver Under WIC During Certain Public Health Emergencies. Provides the Secretary of Agriculture with the authority to grant waivers to allow

participants to be certified for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) without being physically present at the WIC clinic.

Sec. 2204. Administrative Requirements Waiver Under WIC. This section provides the Secretary of Agriculture with the authority to waive administrative requirements that are barriers to serving WIC participants during the coronavirus outbreak.

Title III – SNAP COVID-19 Response Waivers

Section 2301. SNAP Flexibility for Low-Income Jobless Workers. Suspends the work and work training requirements for SNAP during this crisis.

Section 2302. Additional SNAP Flexibilities in a Public Health Emergency. Allows states to request special waivers from the Secretary to provide temporary, emergency CR-SNAP benefits to existing SNAP households up to the maximum monthly allotment, as well as give the Secretary broad discretion to provide much more flexibility for States in managing SNAP caseloads. Additionally, this language requires the Secretary to make State requests for waivers and the USDA response, as well as any USDA guidance on State flexibilities, publicly available online.

DIVISION C – Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act *Prepared by the Democratic staff of the House Committee on Education and Labor*

Section 3101. Short Title. The short title for the bill is the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act.

Section 3102. Amendments to the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993. This section provides employees of employers with fewer than 500 employees and government employers, who have been on the job for at least 30 days, with the right take up to 12 weeks of job-protected leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act to be used for any of the following reasons:

- To adhere to a requirement or recommendation to quarantine due to exposure to or symptoms of coronavirus;
- To care for an at-risk family member who is adhering to a requirement or recommendation to quarantine due to exposure to or symptoms of coronavirus; and
- To care for a child of an employee if the child’s school or place of care has been closed, or the child-care provider is unavailable, due to a coronavirus.

After the two weeks of paid leave, employees will receive a benefit from their employers that will be no less than two-thirds of the employee’s usual pay.

Section 3103. Employment Under Multi-Employer Bargaining Agreements. The bill ensures employees who work under a multiemployer collective agreement and whose employers pay into a multiemployer plan are provided with leave.

Section 3104. Effective Date. This Act takes effect not later than 15 days after the date of bill's enactment.

DIVISION D – Emergency Unemployment Insurance Stabilization and Access Act of 2020

Prepared by the Democratic staff of the House Committee on Ways and Means

Section 4101. Short Title. The short title for the division is the Emergency Unemployment Insurance Stabilization and Access Act of 2020.

Section 4102. Emergency Transfers for Unemployment Compensation Administration. This section provides \$1 billion in 2020 for emergency grants to states for activities related to processing and paying unemployment insurance (UI) benefits, under certain conditions.

\$500 million would be used to provide immediate additional funding to all states for staffing, technology, systems, and other administrative costs, so long as they met basic requirements about ensuring access to earned benefits for eligible workers. Those requirements are:

- Require employers to provide notification of potential UI eligibility to laid-off workers
- Ensure that workers have at least two ways (for example, online and phone) to apply for benefits
- Notify applicants when an application is received and being processed and if the application cannot be processed, provide information to the applicant about how to ensure successful processing.

States would be required to report on the share of eligible individuals who received UI benefits and the state's efforts to ensure access within one year of receiving the funding. The funding would be distributed in the same proportions as regular UI administrative funding provided through annual appropriations.

\$500 million would be reserved for emergency grants to states which experienced at least a 10 percent increase in unemployment. Those states would be eligible to receive an additional grant, in the same amount as the initial grant, to assist with costs related to the unemployment spike, and would also be required to take steps to temporarily ease eligibility requirements that are limiting access to UI during the COVID-19 outbreak, like work search requirements, required waiting periods, and requirements to increase employer UI taxes if they have high layoff rates. Depending on the state, those actions might require changes in state law, or might just require changes in state policy. This section also provides temporary federal flexibility regarding those UI restrictions which are also in federal law.

Section 4103. Temporary Assistance for States with Advances. This section provides states with access to interest-free loans to help pay regular UI benefits through December 31, 2020, if needed.

Section 4104. Technical Assistance and Guidance for Short-Time Compensation Programs. This section requires the Secretary of Labor to provide technical assistance to states that want to set up work-sharing programs, in which employers reduce hours instead of laying employees off, and then employees receive partial unemployment benefits to offset the wage loss.

Section 4105. Full Federal Funding of Extended Unemployment Compensation for a Limited Period. For states that experience an increase of 10 percent or more in their unemployment rate (over the previous year) and comply with all the beneficiary access provisions in section 102, this section provides 100 percent federal funding for Extended Benefits, which normally require 50 percent of funding to come from states. Extended Benefits (EB) are triggered when unemployment is high in a state and provide up to an additional 26 weeks after regular UI benefits (usually 26 weeks) are exhausted. This section also suspends the financial penalty within EB for states that waive the usual one-week waiting period for benefits.

DIVISION E – Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act

Prepared by the Democratic staff of the House Committee on Education and Labor

Section 5101. Short Title. The Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act.

Section 5102. The Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act. This section requires employers with fewer than 500 employees and government employers to provide employees two weeks of paid sick leave, paid at the employee’s regular rate, to quarantine or seek a diagnosis or preventive care for coronavirus; or paid at two-thirds the employee’s regular rate to care for a family member for such purposes or to care for a child whose school has closed, or child care provider is unavailable, due to the coronavirus.

- Full-time employees are entitled to 2 weeks (80 hours) and part-time employees are entitled to the typical number of hours that they work in a typical two-week period.
- The bill ensures employees who work under a multiemployer collective agreement and whose employers pay into a multiemployer plan are provided with leave.

The Act, and the requirements under the Act, expire on December 31, 2020.

DIVISION F – Health Provisions

Prepared by the Democratic staff of the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Education and Labor

Section 6001. Coverage of Testing for COVID-19. This section requires private health plans to provide coverage for COVID-19 diagnostic testing, including the cost of a provider, urgent care center and emergency room visits in order to receive testing. Coverage must be provided at no cost to the consumer.

Section 6002. Waiving Cost Sharing Under the Medicare Program for Certain Visits Relating To Testing For COVID-19. This section requires Medicare Part B to cover beneficiary cost-sharing for provider visits during which a COVID-19 diagnostic test is administered or ordered. Medicare Part B currently covers the COVID-19 diagnostic test with no beneficiary cost-sharing.

Section 6003. Waiving Cost Sharing Under the Medicare Advantage Program for Certain Visits Relating to Testing for COVID-19. This section requires Medicare Advantage to provide

coverage for COVID-19 diagnostic testing, including the associated cost of the visit in order to receive testing. Coverage must be provided at no cost to the beneficiary.

Section 6004. Coverage at No Cost Sharing of COVID-19 Testing Under Medicaid and CHIP. This section requires Medicaid to provide coverage for COVID-19 diagnostic testing, including the cost of a provider visit in order to receive testing. Coverage must be provided at no cost to the beneficiary. It would also provide states with the option to extend Medicaid eligibility to uninsured populations for the purposes of COVID-19 diagnostic testing. State expenditures for medical and administrative costs would be matched by the federal government at 100 percent.

Section 6005. Treatment of Personal Respiratory Protective Devices as Covered Countermeasures. This section requires certain personal respiratory protective devices to be treated as covered countermeasures under the PREP Act Declaration for the purposes of emergency use during the COVID-19 outbreak and ending October 1, 2024.

Section 6006. Application with Respect to TRICARE, Coverage for Veterans, and Coverage for Federal Civilians. This section ensures that individuals enrolled in TRICARE, covered veterans, and federal workers have coverage for COVID-19 diagnostic testing without cost-sharing.

Section 6007. Coverage of Testing for COVID-19 At No Cost Sharing for Indians Receiving Contract Health Services. This section ensures that American Indians and Alaskan Natives do not experience cost sharing for COVID-19 testing, including those referred for care away from an Indian Health Service or tribal health care facility.

Section 6008. Emergency FMAP Increase. This section provides a temporary increase to states' federal medical assistance percentage for the duration of the public health emergency for COVID-19. It requires states to maintain eligibility standards that are no less restrictive than the date of enactment.

Section 6009. Increase in Medicaid Allotments for Territories. This section provides an increase to the territories' Medicaid allotments for 2020 and 2021. It will ensure that territories that receive an FMAP increase under the previous section will have the necessary additional federal funds for their Medicaid programs.

Section 6010. Clarification Relating to Secretarial Authority Regarding Medicare Telehealth Services Furnished During COVID-19 Emergency Period. This section makes a technical change to the Medicare telehealth provision of the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-123) to ensure that new Medicare beneficiaries are able to access telehealth services under the emergency authority granted to the Secretary.

DIVISION G – Tax Credits For Paid Sick And Paid Family And Medical Leave

Prepared by the Democratic staff of the House Committee on Ways and Means

Section 7001. Payroll Credit for Required Paid Sick Leave. This section provides a refundable tax credit equal to 100 percent of qualified paid sick leave wages paid by an employer for each calendar quarter.

The tax credit is allowed against the tax imposed by section 3111(a) (the employer portion of Social Security taxes). Qualified sick leave wages are wages required to be paid by the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act.

The section makes a distinction between qualified sick leave wages paid with respect to employees who must self-isolate, obtain a diagnosis, or comply with a self-isolation recommendation with respect to coronavirus. For amounts paid to those employees, the amount of qualified sick leave wages taken into account for each employee is capped at \$511 per day. For amounts paid to employees caring for a family member or for a child whose school or place of care has been closed, the amount of qualified sick leave wages taken into account for each employee is capped at \$200 per day. The aggregate number of days taken into account per employee may not exceed the excess of 10 over the aggregate number of days taken into account for all preceding calendar quarters.

If the credit exceeds the employer's total liability under section 3111(a) for all employees for any calendar quarter, the excess credit is refundable to the employer. Employers may elect to not have the credit apply. To prevent a double benefit, no deduction is allowed for the amount of the credit. In addition, no credit is allowed with respect to wages for which a credit is allowed under section 45S.

The Secretary of the Treasury is given broad authority to issue regulations and guidance necessary to carry out the purposes of the section, including regulations and guidance related to avoidance, penalty waivers with respect to deposit amounts, compliance and record-keeping relief, and benefit recapture. The Social Security OASDI trust funds are held harmless by transferring funds from the General Fund. The section applies only to wages paid with respect to the period beginning on a date selected by the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's delegate) which is during the 15-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, and ending on December 31, 2020.

Section 7002. Credit for Sick Leave for Certain Self-Employed Individuals. This section provides a refundable tax credit equal to 100 percent of a qualified sick leave equivalent amount for eligible self-employed individuals who must self-isolate, obtain a diagnosis, or comply with a self-isolation recommendation with respect to coronavirus. For eligible self-employed individuals caring for a family member or for a child whose school or place of care has been closed due to coronavirus, the section provides a refundable tax credit equal to 67 percent of a qualified sick leave equivalent amount.

The credit is allowed against income taxes and is refundable. Eligible self-employed individuals are individuals who would be entitled to receive paid leave pursuant to the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act if the individual was an employee of an employer (other than himself or herself). For eligible self-employed individuals who must self-isolate, obtain a diagnosis, or comply with a

self-isolation recommendation, the qualified sick leave equivalent amount is capped at the lesser of \$511 per day or the average daily self-employment income for the taxable year per day. For eligible self-employed individuals caring for a family member or for a child whose school or place of care has been closed due to coronavirus, the qualified sick leave equivalent amount is capped at the lesser of \$200 per day or the average daily self-employment income for the taxable year per day.

In calculating the qualified sick leave equivalent amount, an eligible self-employed individual may only take into account those days that the individual is unable to work for reasons that would entitle the individual to receive paid leave pursuant to the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act.

A self-employed individual must maintain documentation prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury to establish his or her eligibility for the credit. To prevent a double benefit, the qualified sick leave equivalent amount is proportionately reduced for any days that the individual also receives qualified sick leave wages from an employer. The section contains rules to ensure that self-employed individuals in U.S. territories may claim the credit.

The Secretary of the Treasury is given broad authority to issue regulations and guidance necessary to carry out the purposes of the section, including regulations and guidance related to avoidance and compliance and record-keeping relief. The section applies only to days occurring during the period beginning on a date selected by the Secretary of the Treasury which is during the 15-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, and ending on December 31, 2020.

Section 7003. Payroll Credit for Required Paid Family Leave. This section provides a refundable tax credit equal to 100 percent of qualified family leave wages paid by an employer for each calendar quarter.

The tax credit is allowed against the tax imposed by section 3111(a) (the employer portion of Social Security taxes). Qualified family leave wages are wages required to be paid by the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act.

The amount of qualified family leave wages taken into account for each employee is capped at \$200 per day and \$10,000 for all calendar quarters. If the credit exceeds the employer's total liability under section 3111(a) for all employees for any calendar quarter, the excess credit is refundable to the employer.

Employers may elect to not have the credit apply. To prevent a double benefit, no deduction is allowed for the amount of the credit. In addition, no credit is allowed with respect to wages for which a credit is allowed under section 45S.

The Secretary of the Treasury is given broad authority to issue regulations and guidance necessary to carry out the purposes of the section, including regulations and guidance related to avoidance, compliance and record-keeping relief, and benefit recapture. The Social Security OASDI trust funds are held harmless by transferring funds from the General Fund. The section

applies only to wages paid with respect to the period beginning on a date selected by the Secretary of the Treasury which is during the 15-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, and ending on December 31, 2020.

Section 7004. Credit for Family Leave for Certain Self-Employed Individuals. This section provides a refundable tax credit equal to 100 percent of a qualified family leave equivalent amount for eligible self-employed individuals.

The credit is allowed against income taxes and is refundable. Eligible self-employed individuals are individuals who would be entitled to receive paid leave pursuant to the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act if the individual was an employee of an employer (other than himself or herself). The qualified family leave equivalent amount is capped at the lesser \$200 per day or the average daily self-employment income for the taxable year per day. In calculating the qualified family leave equivalent amount, an eligible self-employed individual may only take into account those days that the individual is unable to work for reasons that would entitle the individual to receive paid leave pursuant to the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act.

A self-employed individual must maintain documentation prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury to establish his or her eligibility for the credit. To prevent a double benefit, the qualified sick leave equivalent amount is proportionately reduced for any days that the individual also receives qualified sick leave wages from an employer. The section contains rules to ensure that self-employed individuals in U.S. territories may claim the credit.

The Secretary of the Treasury is given broad authority to issue regulations and guidance necessary to carry out the purposes of the section, including regulations and guidance related to avoidance and compliance and record-keeping relief. The section applies only to days occurring during the period beginning on a date selected by the Secretary of the Treasury which is during the 15-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, and ending on December 31, 2020.

Section 7005. Special Rule Related to Tax on Employers. This section ensures that any wages required to be paid by reason of the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act will not be considered wages for purposes of section 3111(a). The Social Security OASDI trust funds are held harmless by transferring funds from the General Fund.

DIVISION H – Budgetary Effects

Technical budgetary provisions.