

COVID-19 Update: Legislature Suspensions, Postponements and Changes

States	Orders	Local Orders	Notes
Alabama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alabama leaders announced that the Legislature would resume on May 4 and the regular session must conclude by May 18. It is expected that Gov. Kay Ivey will call one or more special sessions this year. The sessions are limited to 12 legislative days within a 30 calendar day span. 		
Alaska	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Alaska Legislature recessed on March 29 until further notice. Preparations are being made to return in May. 		
Arizona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Arizona Senate voted on May 26 to adjourn sine die, officially ending the 2020 regular legislative session that began in January. Just minutes after gaveling back in, the chamber approved the motion by a 16-14 vote with three Republicans joining the 13 Democrats to shut things down. While the action ends the regular session, lawmakers are fully expecting to return to the Capitol this summer to address the state’s anticipated budget shortfall. Gov. Doug Ducey has not yet given any specifics on timing; however, it’s safe to assume he will call for a special session sometime before July 1, when the 2021 fiscal year begins. In addition to the budget, the Legislature will likely take on a range of other COVID-19-related issues, including some sort of liability shield for “mom-and-pop” businesses as well as funding for childcare facilities. 		
Arkansas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Arkansas Legislature adjourned on April 24 with no appointed date for resumption. 		
California	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On August 26, the State Senate postponed a floor session amid a report that a senator or staff member tested positive for the coronavirus. “Out of an abundance of caution, because of a positive test result, we are asking all Senators and staff to hold in place for the next hour or so,” an email to senators read. “Those who are not yet in the building, please remain at home. Those who are in the Capitol already should remain in their offices. Please continue working remotely. We will be back in touch shortly.” Both the Assembly and Senate are in the middle of the final week of the 2020 session, a time when lawmakers are usually meeting all day on their respective floors to finalize remaining bills. The Senate was scheduled to hold a floor session at 10 a.m. on August 26, but Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins, D-San Diego, postponed the meeting until further notice. The California Legislature has indefinitely postponed return to work in Sacramento after several Assembly members and staff tested positive for COVID-19. The Senate announced on March 13 that it will have session but not hold any budget or policy hearings during the week of March 16. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors in Los Angeles County announced regularly scheduled Board meetings will convene virtually and by teleconference starting March 31. Los Angeles City Council President Nury Martinez canceled Council meetings that had been scheduled for March 24 and the week of March 30, saying that the city needed to ensure it was ready to meet “recommended safety standards.” 	
Colorado	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Legislature has suspended its session until March 30. 		
Connecticut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gov. Ned Lamont intends to call lawmakers back for a special session to begin July 23 to address just four bills relating to police accountability, absentee ballots, cost controls on insulin and a continuation of telemedicine. Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont sent a letter to legislative leaders advising that he intended to call the Legislature into special session very soon to resolve the issue of absentee ballots in the November general election. Legislative leaders have decided that they will not return to the state Capitol before the constitutional adjournment of May 6. (Original plans were to reconvene on Friday the 24th.) Any action that might be necessary — including adjustments to the state budget or public health legislation to respond to the coronavirus pandemic — would be 		

COVID-19 Update: Legislature Suspensions, Postponements and Changes

	<p>addressed in a special session this summer. In a joint statement, Speaker of the House Joe Aresimowicz, Senate President Martin M. Looney, House Majority Leader Matt Ritter, Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff, House Minority Leader Themis Klarides, and Senate Minority Leader Len Fasano said, “The 2020 regular legislative session will adjourn without any further action, and we are already working on a plan to convene a special session in the coming months to ensure the continuity of government functions and that any necessary legislative action can be taken,” the leaders said, in a written statement. "Our top priority is the health and safety of the public, and we are committed to continue working in unison to stem this health crisis and do everything possible to protect the Connecticut residents we all represent.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Legislature has adjourned until March 16. 		
Delaware	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Delaware General Assembly will postpone resumption of its legislative session until March 24 and will re-evaluate on a weekly basis when to return to session. 		
District of Columbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Effective March 16 and continuing through March 31, the D.C. government will operate under an agency-specific telework schedule. ○ With the mayor’s budget submission delayed from March 19 to May 1, all currently scheduled budget hearings will be postponed until after the latter date. Votes on the budget are now tentatively expected on June 30 and July 14. ○ The Mayor’s Office has added a new tab to its coronavirus webpage that outlines the operating procedures for each agency. Click here for more. The following agencies will continue to deliver services as normal: Metropolitan Police Department; D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department; D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency; Office of Unified Communications; Department of Forensic Sciences; and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. 		
Florida	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Florida Legislature adjourned on March 19 with no appointed date for resumption. 		
Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Per an update from the Georgia Beverage Association, as of May 5, Georgia has 10 days left of its 40-day legislative session. The Legislature is currently scheduled to go back in to session on June 11 and will have to pass a balanced budget for FY 2020-2021. ○ A member of the Georgia State Senate has tested positive for COVID-19. The entire Georgia State Legislature has been encouraged to self-quarantine. ○ The Georgia Legislature has suspended its session indefinitely. 		
Hawaii	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The 2020 Hawaii Legislative session will is in recess effective March 17. While the official resolution states that the legislative recess will last at least 3 days, there are current reports that this will last for a minimum of 2 weeks, if not more. 		
Idaho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Idaho Senate adjourned on March 19 and the House adjourned on March 20, both without appointed dates for resumption. 		
Illinois	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ By a joint proclamation by the Illinois Senate President and Speaker of the House, the General Assembly called for a special session to be convened beginning May 20. The House of Representatives will meet at the Bank of Springfield Center and the Senate will meet at the State Capitol. The proclamation declares the session will deal solely with new or pending legislation in relation to: the COVID-19 pandemic; budget and implementation; funding economic recovery; infrastructure projects; explanation, arguments for and against, and the form for constitutional amendments as required under the Illinois Constitutional Amendment Act; laws or authority scheduled to be repealed prior to June 1, 2021; the 2020 General Election and the State Board of Elections; and the hospital assessment program. 		

COVID-19 Update: Legislature Suspensions, Postponements and Changes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No official announcements have been released regarding either chamber reconvening in May but bipartisan “working groups” of legislators have been meeting virtually to discuss what bills are necessary to move this year and which ones may be held until next year. ○ The legislative session was canceled for the week of March 16. 		
Indiana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Indiana Legislature has no plans at this time for a special session to consider budget matters. ○ The Indiana Legislature adjourned on March 11 with no appointed date for resumption. 		
Iowa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gov. Kim Reynolds signed on May 13 a new proclamation continuing the Public Health Disaster Emergency. The proclamation continues the other ongoing closures and public health measures, including the prohibition on social, community, recreational, leisure, and sporting gatherings and events of more than 10 people, until 11:59 p.m. on May 27. It also strongly encourages all vulnerable Iowans, including those with preexisting medical conditions and those older than 65, in all counties of the state to continue to limit their activities outside of their home, including their visits to businesses and other establishments and their participation in gatherings of any size and any purpose. ○ Legislative leaders of the Iowa Legislature announced on April 29 unanimous approval of a continuation of the suspension of the legislative session until May 15. In the meantime, leaders will consider how a return will be done in a healthy and safe manner and if there is a possibility of a separate budget and then a policy session. 		
Kansas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gov. Laura Kelly has called for a special session to begin on June 3. The Kansas Beverage Association reports that the Legislature is constitutionally directed to meet; however, there are no restrictions on what subjects may be considered during the Special Session. Additionally, any bills introduced previously remain dead and any measures that may be considered will need to be introduced during this Session. ○ On May 8, House Speaker Ron Ryckman issued a statement that the Appropriations, Commerce, Tax, and Judiciary Committees would meet virtually prior to the Legislature’s return on May 21. The meetings are scheduled to occur from May 12 to May 18 addressing legislation related to COVID-19 including oversight of state use of COVID-19 federal funding, liability protections, the Department of Labor’s unemployment Insurance benefits system and waiving of tax penalties. ○ On May 8, the Senate Leadership issued a joint statement that they had directed Judiciary, Commerce, Tax, and Financial Institutions & Insurance Committee Chairs to meet prior to that date. While no meetings have been scheduled it was stated they would hear legislative testimony with key topics mentioned being a plan for economic recovery, oversight of the \$1.25B in COVID-19 federal funding, access to capital by businesses, limiting liability caused by COVID-19 and removing penalties on unpaid taxes. ○ The Kansas Beverage Association reports that the Legislative Coordinating Council took action on May 6 to set a date for reconvening of the Legislature for one day (May 21) to coincide with Sine Die, which represents the official end of Session. It was indicated standing committees and conference committees may continue to meet with permission from leadership leading up to May 21, so votes on pending legislative issues may still be taken on the final day of session. ○ The veto session originally scheduled for April 27 has been delayed. Leaders are expected to decide a reconvene date by May 6. 		

COVID-19 Update: Legislature Suspensions, Postponements and Changes

<p>Kentucky</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kentucky’s legislative session resumed on March 17 but only legislators and essential staff are allowed in the Capitol Annex. ○ While the 2020 legislative session of the Kentucky Legislature will continue as scheduled, a number of safeguards and precautions have been put in place to limit exposure risks to COVID-19. Beginning on March 17, access to the legislative proceedings will be limited. Only elected officials, staff and members of the media will be allowed in the facility until further notice. All other parties are encouraged to watch proceedings online. 		
<p>Louisiana</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The Louisiana State Legislature completed their Second Special Session on October 23. A number of bills were passed, including measures dealing with the unemployment trust fund, school funding and hurricane relief. Also of interest was a measure (HB 4) that would allow legislative oversight of the governor’s executive orders and provide them with line item veto authority. Gov. Edwards is expected to veto this attempt to scale back the restrictions. In addition, 65 members of the House signed a petition to nullify the Governor’s Executive Order for seven days. However, on October 26 the governor went to court to defend his public health emergency order. He claims the petition is unconstitutional in part, because only one chamber cannot overturn a public health emergency. In addition, he said the petitioners did not properly consult the public health authority in the state, the Louisiana Department of Health. More information about the governor’s motion filed in Baton Rouge can be found in his press release here.</i> ○ The Louisiana Legislature has called for their second Special Session of the year, to begin on Sept. 28 and end by Oct. 27. The list of topics to be considered, issued by legislative leadership, can be found here. The Louisiana Beverage Association will closely monitor the situation as specific measures are filed. House and Senate leaders have indicated their goals include dealing with the reduced state unemployment trust fund, hurricane disaster relief and recovery efforts, plus ongoing issues related to the pandemic, such as in-person education of children in Louisiana. A major topic will also be how Gov. John Bel Edwards has been reopening the state’s economy. Many in the Republican-controlled legislature feel that Democratic Governor should be restarting businesses more quickly. The Governor issued a statement indicating his disappointment with the legislature holding this Special Session, while public access is restricted due to the coronavirus. ○ On June 30 at 6 p.m., the Louisiana Legislature adjourned the 2020 First Extraordinary Session. The Louisiana Beverage Association reports the session dealt mainly with the budget, tort reform and business tax incentives. It is expected there will be another Special Session in the fall, when the fiscal impact of the pandemic on state revenues will be better known. ○ The Louisiana Legislature has approved a call into special session that would begin at on June 1 at 6:00 p.m., when the current legislative session is scheduled to end. The special session would conclude by June 30. The session would allow the legislature to consider the budget and several other items, including potential tax breaks, licensing requirements, sports betting tort reform and college fees. Administration and collection of sales taxes are among the list of potential topics, but will likely be part of centralized sales tax collection. It is not expected that the legislature will be supportive of tax increases. It is unusual for the legislature to call a special session instead of the governor doing so, but it has been done one previous time. If there are any questions over a 		

COVID-19 Update: Legislature Suspensions, Postponements and Changes

	<p>governor- vs. legislature-called session, the courts will need to decide which has priority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Committees will begin to meet on May 5 in two-hour time slots with cleaning of the committee room in between committee hearings. ○ The Revenue Estimating Conference is scheduled to meet on May 11 to recognize how much money is available for the budget. Senator White was reported saying the shortfall is between \$500 million to \$1 billion for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. ○ The Legislature is expected to convene on May 4. ○ The legislative session has been adjourned until March 31. 		
Maine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Legislature adjourned on March 18. 		
Maryland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On April 21, Maryland Speaker of the House Adrienne A. Jones and Senate President Bill Ferguson announced that the Maryland General Assembly will not reconvene for a special session in May. ○ Maryland state lawmakers announced on March 16 that its legislative session will end on March 18 due to concerns about the coronavirus, and will resume the last week of May for a special session. 		
Massachusetts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Massachusetts Legislature is currently in session. 		
Michigan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Governor Gretchen Whitmer worked out an agreement with the Republican Legislature to pass legislation that extends unemployment benefits while granting liability protection to employers from COVID-related lawsuits. The measure also protects employees from being fired due to staying home for COVID infections. In addition, the State’s Director of Health and Human Services updated the recent order that reinstated many of the Governor’s guidelines and restrictions that had been thrown out by the State Supreme Court. The new Emergency Order on public gatherings and face coverings may be found here and further background is in the Director’s press release. The order and press release outline various indoor and outdoor limits on attendance for residences and non-residences, restaurants, stores, museums, gyms, arenas and more. Also, because of the Supreme Court decision, the Michigan Department of Treasury announced that all limits that had been put in place by the Governor to halt deposit container redemptions are now lifted. All bottles and cans must be accepted. More information can be found in the Department of Treasury notice. ○ The Michigan House of Representatives passed a package of measures to provide liability protection for businesses from lawsuits related to clients or employees who contract COVID-19 in the course of business. However, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is opposed to the measures and would likely veto them if they reach her desk for signature. The package of bills include MI HB 6030, HB 6031, HB 6032 an HB 6101. The Legislative Analysis by the Michigan House Fiscal Agency can be found here. HB 6030 would create a new act to provide minimum requirements and standards for certain liability claims related to COVID-19. HB 6031 and HB 6101 add new sections to the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act to establish conditions for immunity from civil liability for an employer whose employee is exposed to COVID-19. HB 6032 relates to employees reporting to work under prohibits employees from reporting to work under circumstances related to COVID-19 and protects them from certain actions by employers. Gov. Whitmer said current law already protects workers and customers and indicated she would not support the legislation. ○ The Michigan Legislature is currently in session. 		

COVID-19 Update: Legislature Suspensions, Postponements and Changes

<p>Minnesota</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gov. Tim Walz has called the Minnesota State Legislature into another Special Session starting Oct. 12, as he is required to do whenever a peacetime state of emergency is issued for another 30 days. As in past special sessions, the Republican Senate is expected to vote in opposition to the Democratic Governor’s state of emergency, while the Democratic-controlled House will again approve. Both chambers of the legislature must vote to end the extension for it to be blocked. A bonding bill and small tax measure are expected to be approved during the Special Session, as there is agreement among both parties in the House and Senate to take such action. ○ Gov. Walz announced in a press release that he is calling the Minnesota State Legislature into their fourth Special Session of the year, to consider his next extension of the Peacetime State of Emergency. State law requires the Governor to call legislators back into session to vote on such emergency orders if they are not already in session. The session will begin on Sept. 11. As has been done for the previous three Special Sessions, it is expected that the Republican Senate will vote to oppose the continuation of the statewide emergency order, but the House of Representatives controlled by the Democrats will allow the emergency order extension to take place. It would take disapproval by both chambers to prevent the order. The Minnesota Beverage Association reports that legislature’s leadership does not intend to take up legislation not related to the emergency order, unless there is a bonding bill ready for consideration. The legislature may even recess and wait for final agreement by both parties on a bonding bill that can be presented for consideration. ○ Due to Gov. Tim Walz’s decision to extend the State of Emergency to deal with the pandemic, the Governor has issued a proclamation calling for a Special Session, starting August 12. He made the announcement in a press release. State law requires the Legislature to convene when a State of Emergency is declared so the chambers have an opportunity to oppose the order. The Minnesota House is controlled by the same party as the Democratic Governor, so they are not likely to overturn the order, which is opposed by the Republican Senate leaders. House Speaker Melissa Hortman said this is a “financial quiet period” for the state, meaning there will not be an urgent need to consider budget items during this session. Therefore, the session is expected to be very brief and not take up significant legislation. ○ The Minnesota legislature finished up a special session, their second of the year, with passage of a police reform measure but no final action on a bonding bill sought by the Governor. The Republican-led Senate has opposed the Governor’s continued action on coronavirus matters through emergency orders, but has not been able to overturn the authority because the Democratic House supports Gov. Walz. House Republicans have not agreed to provide the necessary votes for a bonding bill, which requires a supermajority, until the Governor allows some adjustments to his emergency powers. The legislature will need to reconvene in another few weeks because state law requires a special session when the Governor seeks another 30-day extension of the emergency powers. ○ Gov. Tim Walz has called the Minnesota Legislature into Special Session starting July 13. The main topics to be covered in the Session will be police reform measures and a bonding bill to pay for infrastructure projects. Of note, the Governor is also required to call a Special Session when he extends his peacetime emergency order by another 30 		
-------------------------	---	--	--

COVID-19 Update: Legislature Suspensions, Postponements and Changes

	<p>days. The Legislature has the ability to oppose the extension, but the Democratically-controlled House of Representatives is unlikely to do so.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Minnesota House and Senate adjourned special session on June 20 without coming to resolution on a number of important issues, including police reform, coronavirus relief, taxes and a bond bill. The House of Representatives is controlled by the Democrats and the Senate chamber is led by Republicans. If Gov. Tim Walz extends the state of emergency by executive order for another 30 days in July, then a special session will again be required to approve or reject the order. Legislative leaders will be working between now and the next session to line up agreements on these and other topics. ○ The Minnesota Legislature will need to return for a Special Session to address the looming budget deficit. Approximate time for their return is June 12; by law the legislature needs to approve or disapprove the next Emergency Order extension by the Governor due around that date. ○ The 91st Session of the Minnesota State Legislature came to a close on May 18 with the final focus on measures related to COVID-19. Many other measures were not passed, including tax and bonding bills. However, because Gov. Tim Walz plans to extend his Peacetime State of Emergency again in June, it will trigger a special session by the Legislature to approve or disapprove the order. A target date is set for June 12, but could take place sooner. The Legislature would decide how long they wish to remain in session at that time. During the special session, a bonding bill will likely be considered, as the Republican Senate Leader and Democratic House Speaker are already working out details on a measure in the range of \$1.1 to \$1.3 billion. While the Senate passed a Tax Bill, no such measure moved in committee on the House side, so no final action was taken. ○ The Legislature is scheduled to adjourn on May 18, but if the Governor seeks another 30-day extension of the peacetime emergency, it could come back into special session if they want to prevent the extension. ○ As of May 7, Minnesota legislators are having floor sessions, but committee meetings are taking place through Zoom videoconferencing. Plans are still to finish the legislative session by May 18, but there may be special sessions scheduled later to deal with budget shortfalls. Committee chairs and leads on pending legislative issues have been asked to reach agreement on their measures by close of business on May 9 so bills can be wrapped up by May 18. ○ Legislative floor sessions and committee hearings have been suspended until May 13 and are expected to adjourn May 18. 		
<p>Mississippi</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Legislators have returned to the statehouse to finish work on a budget for the state’s Department of Marine Resources, and also to address Gov. Tate Reeve’s veto of large parts of the education spending plan because legislators did not fund a bonus pay program for teachers. Gov. Reeves also vetoed parts of a bill that allocated federal relief money for the coronavirus pandemic. Lawmakers in the House filed suit arguing that the vetoes were improper because the governor cannot veto portions of budget bills that deal with conditions for how money is spent. Typically, a two-thirds majority of the House and Senate is required to override a veto. Legislators previously had to stop work due to a high outbreak of COVID-19 cases among members. 		

COVID-19 Update: Legislature Suspensions, Postponements and Changes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mississippi legislators are planning to return to the capitol as early as May 4 to strip the governor's spending authority of the state's CARES Act money. Read more here. 		
Missouri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lawmakers reconvened on April 27 to complete their budget by the May 8 deadline. The State Senate postponed its legislative session until March 30. 		
Montana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No legislative session in 2020. 		
Nebraska	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On May 18, Speaker Jim Scheer emailed members of the unicameral legislature to call them back into session to complete the 2020 Session beginning July 20, with Sine Die projected for August 13. It is expected that work will focus on state budget changes, priority bills and property tax cuts. The plan is to meet two full weeks in July, Aug. 3-6 and Aug. 11-13. Shields will be installed at senators' desk areas and senators will be spread out across the chamber. Some senators will be moved from the main seating areas to tables under the balconies. Coronavirus testing will be offered to senators at the Capitol, and temperature checks will be done for anyone entering the chamber. Only staff of a senator whose bill is being discussed will be allowed in the chamber. Glass doors between the lobby and the chamber will be locked and senators will enter and exit through two doors at the west end. Senators will be encouraged to wear masks, and masks and gloves will be available. The chamber will be cleaned each night. The legislative session is temporarily suspended until further notice. Legislators may get called back in for emergency actions. 		
Nevada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Nevada Legislature will push their special session until early July in order to safely get the Capitol ready for legislators and the public. A July date will push it past the beginning of the new fiscal year, however they will convene to address COVID-19 related budget issues. No legislative session in 2020. 		
New Hampshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The House has announced that it will meet in session on June 11th at the Whittemore Center Arena at UNH. The Senate will meet in the House Chambers. Both venues will allow for proper social distancing. It has been stated that the Legislature will focus on narrowing its work to issues related to COVID – but that can be subjective. House and Senate leadership intend to unveil plans to reopen the 2020 legislative session early in the week of May 11. Rumors suggest that House and Senate Committees will begin to meet remotely in early June with a focus on prioritizing legislation related to COVID-19 response and budget issues. The bodies may look to table “non-urgent” legislation to be refiled for next session. House Committees that are still working on “second committee” House bills will continue to meet remotely during the month of May to finish up their work. On May 12, the House Ways and Means Committee will be meeting remotely to have an executive session. Other committees will likely schedule their meetings over the next several weeks. All legislative activities have been suspended for at least one week – thru March 21. Leaders will reevaluate after that date. Essential government operations will continue. 		
New Jersey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The New Jersey Assembly convened via teleconference on March 25. The Assembly and Senate scheduled a quorum on April 9, and the Senate hosted a remote voting session on April 13. 		
New Mexico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A bipartisan group of 22 rank-and-file lawmakers filed a petition on June 11 with the New Mexico State Supreme Court that asks the court to block a decision by top-ranking 		

COVID-19 Update: Legislature Suspensions, Postponements and Changes

	<p>legislators to close the legislative building to lobbyists and the public during the special session, which is set to begin during the week of June 22. In their court filing, they argue that closing the state Capitol to the public for the special session due to the coronavirus outbreak violates a provision in the New Mexico Constitution that stipulates that “all sessions of each house shall be public.” They also claim that the decision also infringes on New Mexicans’ right to participate in the legislative process. The proposal to close the legislative building was approved by the Legislative Council without debate and without any dissenting votes. House Speaker Brian Egolf said that members of the public would have ample opportunities to testify on bills during the special session, despite not being allowed in the building.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gov. Lujan Grisham announced that she will call a special session on June 18, anticipating an estimated budget shortfall for the current fiscal year (ending June 30) of between \$368 million and \$483 million. The estimated shortfall for the next fiscal year - beginning July 1 - is between \$1.8 and \$2.8 billion. ○ The New Mexico Legislature adjourned on February 20 with no appointed date for resumption. Lawmakers are debating on logistics for a special session. 		
New York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The New York Legislature reconvened on April 3 to pass a budget. It is currently unknown if legislators will return for the second half of the session. 		
North Carolina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The General Assembly began its annual session on April 28 and immediately addressed legislation to distribute COVID-19 federal relief funds. About 20% of legislators were in attendance. For the time being, committees in both chambers will occur online, and House floor votes will be staggered to prevent crowded conditions. 		
North Dakota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No legislative session in 2020. 		
Ohio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More information about Gov. DeWine signing HB 606 into law can be found in his press release. ○ Gov. DeWine signed into law HB 606, a measure passed by the Ohio legislature earlier in the month. The measure will provide liability protection related to the coronavirus through September 30, 2021. It goes into effect in 90 days from the signing that took place on September 14. The law will grant state-law immunity from civil lawsuits for “injury, death or loss” related to “the transmission or contraction” of the novel coronavirus. It extends protections to Ohio businesses, schools, nonprofits and for-profit entities of any size, government entities, churches, colleges and universities. ○ The Ohio Senate and House gave final approval to a conference report on HB 606, a measure to protect hospitals and other businesses from lawsuits on COVID-19. The legislation was then forwarded to Gov. DeWine, who is expected to sign it into law. The Ohio Beverage Association had co-signed a letter with 60 other trade associations, nonprofits and local government organizations urging action in this regard. Final adjustments to the House and Senate-passed versions in conference committee enabled final passage of the measure. HB 606 provides immunity in Ohio to people and businesses against civil suits “for injury, death or loss” related to “the transmission or contraction” of COVID-19. But businesses would still be liable if a plaintiff proves a company’s “heedless indifference” to the pandemic caused their illness. Once approved, the law would be effective through Sept. 30, 2021. ○ As of May 7, the Ohio Legislature is holding floor sessions and committee meeting, but in-person attendance is restricted to legislators, staff and legislative reporters and social distancing must be practiced. Others can monitor live streams. Besides budget correction 		

COVID-19 Update: Legislature Suspensions, Postponements and Changes

	<p>measures, other legislation being considered includes bills to provide civil liability protection. The Legislature hopes to pass those bills before they take their regular summer break in mid-June.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The House has postponed its legislative session until further notice. 		
Oklahoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A special session took place on April 6 where the Legislature approved emergency declaration and powers for the Governor. 		
Oregon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Oregon Legislature will only allow legislators and essential staff in the Capitol. ○ Gov. Kate Brown called a special session beginning June 24 to focus on COVID-19 issues and police reforms. Gov. Brown expects to call a second special session later in the summer to rebalance the state’s budget. ○ The Oregon Legislature adjourned on March with no appointed date for resumption. 		
Pennsylvania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The House and Senate convened floor sessions using remote participation and voting the week of March 23. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Philadelphia City Council has canceled its meetings for the next two weeks and City Courts will close through March 31. 	
Puerto Rico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Senate and House of Representatives in Puerto Rico completed their sixth Extraordinary Session of the legislature on Oct. 5. They did not take up legislation we have been following there that would place restrictions on the sale of energy drinks. It was not on the agenda for legislative consideration during the special session. However, Gov. Wanda Vasquez Garced plans to call yet another special session, the seventh Extraordinary Session, at some point after the Nov. 3 elections. We will monitor the plans for that session by the Governor and legislative leaders. ○ Gov. Wanda Vazquez Garced has issued Executive Order 2020-069 and called for a Special Session of the legislature that starts Sept. 16 and will finish by Oct. 5. An English version of the Executive Order will be posted soon on the Governor’s webpage. The agenda for the session is outlined in the Executive Order and it does not include the restrictive energy drink legislation (HB 265) that we have been following in recent years. 2020 is the final year of the four-year legislative session for Puerto Rico. ○ Gov. Wanda Vazquez Garced has said that she will call a new Special Session of the Puerto Rico Legislature once the primary elections take place. However, a crisis has arisen surrounding the primary elections, as ballots were not distributed sufficiently for the election to be completed as planned on August 9. The election is now been suspended until August 16. Once the election matter is settled and the Governor calls for a Special Session, it must end no later than 20 days after the official commission is received by the Legislature. ○ Gov. Wanda Vazquez Garced has called the Puerto Rico Legislature into a Fifth Special Session to consider a number of measures on an agenda she selected. Among the topics will be health insurance, pensions, debt management and COVID-19 assistance. At this point, energy drink legislation is not on the agenda, but the Governor can always make changes. The session begins immediately on July 21 and must be completed by August 8. The Legislature could end the session before that date. With primary elections scheduled for August 9, the legislators may be very interested in getting out to campaign. ○ The Legislature has been holding weekly sessions during the pandemic, with most administrative offices closed as a safety precaution. At this time the Ordinary Session is scheduled to end on June 30, but the President of the Senate has filed a resolution to extend the ordinary session to July 31. The resolution has been approved by the Senate 		

COVID-19 Update: Legislature Suspensions, Postponements and Changes

	<p>and is pending in the House. The Governor could also call for an extraordinary session, even if the House does not pass an extension.</p>		
Rhode Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Rhode Island Beverage Association reports that their General Assembly will meet to debate and enact the Supplemental FY 2020 State Budget during the week of June 15. The supplemental budget would address a shortfall of \$234.6 million in the current-year budget, and the shortfall must be addressed before the end of the fiscal year on June 30. Legislative leaders plan to return to session later in the year to address the Fiscal Year 2021 budget, hoping the federal government decides on providing a stimulus to address state budgets. Fiscal Year 2021 is projected to see a \$617.7 million deficit. For more on the General Assembly’s plans, please see – Assembly to return to session. ○ The Rhode Island House of Representatives and Senate are expected to meet during the week of June 15-19. This will be the first time since March both chambers have convened and they are expected to consider a revised supplemental budget and conduct very limited legislative business. ○ House and Senate sessions have been canceled for the week of May 11-15. The House Finance Committee is expected to resume hearings on the FY20 and FY21 budgets on May 14. ○ House and Senate sessions have been cancelled through May 8. ○ Rhode Island legislators are planning to go back into session sometime in May. ○ House and Senate sessions have been cancelled for April 27 through May 1. ○ The 10-member Emergency Spending Task Force met for the first time April 30 to review tens of millions of dollars the state has committed so far to combat COVID-19. Members met either wearing face masks at the State House or via video conference. ○ House Speaker Nicholas Mattiello has indicated the House Finance Committee would also soon be meeting to propose a budget for next year. ○ The House and Senate sessions and all Committee hearings for the week of March 23-27 have been canceled. ○ The legislative session has been canceled for this week. 		
South Carolina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The State Legislature finished its session on May 12 and is now planning on returning to Columbia for a two week session starting September 15. ○ The State Legislature will return to Columbia for a special session on May 12. ○ House Speaker Jay Lucas and Senate President Harvey Peeler released a joint letter April 30 stating that both chambers will meet on May 12, two days before what is typically the last official day of legislative work. The General Assembly has the option to extend the legislative session to May 28 in the event that the state’s economist predicts a drop in state revenues below what previously was expected. ○ South Carolina lawmakers will return to Columbia in May to try to break the stalemate and ensure that the state government stays open during the coronavirus pandemic. ○ South Carolina House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Hartsville, and Senate President Harvey Peeler, R-Gaffney, announced on April 30 that they would both call their members back to the Statehouse on May 12 for three days. ○ The current budget runs until the end of June, but lawmakers also face a May 14 deadline to approve a resolution to adjourn that would establish how, when and why they might return later this year. ○ The South Carolina House is not meeting this week and the Senate is only in today to provide emergency funding for the Department of Health and Environmental Control. 		

COVID-19 Update: Legislature Suspensions, Postponements and Changes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The House has suspended its session with the Senate scheduled to meet tomorrow and then be out next week. 		
South Dakota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The South Dakota Legislature adjourned on March 30 and will have a special session in June to address financial uncertainty. 		
Tennessee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Session is suspended until June 1. 		
Texas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No legislative session in 2020. 		
Utah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gov. Gary Herbert said during the week of June 8 that he would call a special session of the Legislature to address the effect the economic downturn will have on Utah's budget. Media reports suggest that the special session would occur June 18 and possibly into June 19. Legislators will be given the option of joining remotely or in-person. Herbert said the economic shutdown because of the COVID-19 pandemic took a bite out of the state budget, but he thinks the state is well-positioned to deal with the economic fallout. Legislators also have nearly \$1 billion in rainy day funds they could tap to make up the shortfall. ○ A special session convened on April 16 to discuss COVID-19 related issues and adjourned on April 23 with no appointed date for resumption. The next emergency session will likely be held in May. 		
Vermont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The legislative session has adjourned until March 24. 		
Virginia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The regular session adjourned on March 12 and a veto session concluded on April 22. Governor Ralph Northam has suggested calling the General Assembly back into session, probably in midsummer, to look at a revised forecast for Virginia's economy. 		
Washington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Washington Legislature adjourned on March 12 with no appointed date for resumption. 		
West Virginia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The West Virginia Legislature adjourned on March 7 with no appointed date for resumption. 		
Wisconsin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Due to a recent shooting by a police officer in Kenosha that has led to protests, Gov. Tony Evers signed Executive Order #84 to call the Wisconsin State Legislature into Special Session to address police accountability and transparency. The session would convene on August 31. The Governor had called on the Legislature to take up a series of police reform measures in June after the shootings involving Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, but the bills were not considered. He is asking again for action on the measures, given the recent shooting in their own state. A list of the bills in the reform package and further information can be found in the Governor's press release on the subject. ○ A special session occurred on April 14 to discuss a COVID-19 relief package. 		
Wyoming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Wyoming Legislature adjourned on March 12 with no appointed date for resumption. In June, a one-day special session is expected to address possible revenue declines of between \$555 million to \$2.8 billion as a result of COVID-19. Senate President Drew Perkins stated additional special sessions can be expected in the summer and fall. 		