

March 26, 2020 – 10:45 AM

*Please note resources and updates are evolving rapidly.*

### **Resources**

- Ohio’s “stay-at-home” order is in effect. It is GCP’s recommendation that you review the recent [ODH order](#) and [FAQs](#) with your legal counsel and/or go to [coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://coronavirus.ohio.gov) for additional information.
- Join a Web Event with SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza on COVID-19:
  - The live web event will be held Friday, March 27 at 2 PM ET. To register, please click [here](#). Please note that internet access is required to join. Registration is limited to the first 3,000 attendees. If you are unable to join, a recording will be made available.
- The U.S. Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service, and the U.S. Department of Labor recently announced in a news release that soon small and midsize employers can begin taking advantage of two new refundable payroll tax credits, designed to immediately and fully reimburse them, dollar-for-dollar, for the cost of providing coronavirus-related leave to their employees. This relief to employees and small and midsize businesses is provided under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, signed by President Trump on March 18, 2020. View the [complete March 20 IRS news release](#).
- DOL to Host Online Dialogue on Compliance Materials Needed for Expanded Paid Family and Medical Leave Requirements:
  - The U.S. Department of Labor will be hosting a national online dialogue to provide employers and employees with an innovative opportunity to offer their perspective as the Department develops compliance assistance materials and outreach strategies related to the implementation of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). The ideas and comments gathered from this dialogue will inform compliance assistance guidance, resources, and tools, as well as outreach approaches, that assist employers and employees in understanding their responsibilities and rights under the FFCRA. DOL needs your input by March 29, 2020. Those interested can participate online at <https://ffcra.ideascale.com> from March 23 through March 29, 2020 or can join a Twitter chat hosted by [@ePolicyWorks](#) on March 25, 2020 at 2 p.m. using the hashtag #EPWChat. For more information on the requirements of FFCRA, please visit: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic>.

## State Updates

- The latest update on coronavirus from the Ohio Department of Health shows 704 confirmed cases and 10 deaths, with 182 hospitalizations and 75 intensive care unit admissions.
- According to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), the state reported more than 187,000 claims for unemployment compensation in the week ended Saturday, March 21, compared to just more than 7,000 the week earlier. For comparison, ODJFS notes that weekly total exceeds many of the highest monthly totals of the early 1980s recession.
- The Ohio House and Ohio Senate both cancelled sessions on the calendar for Thursday, March 26 after passing emergency legislation yesterday to respond to the coronavirus outbreak. [A summary of the state legislation can be found here.](#) GCP is especially appreciative of the work of Governor Mike DeWine, Lt. Gov. Jon Husted, Senate President Larry Obhof, Speaker of the House Larry Householder, Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko, and House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes for expanding eligibility for unemployment compensation and aligning the state tax filing deadline to the delayed federal deadline.

On unemployment, the state measure codifies the following:

- Waives first week waiting period
- Changes eligibility to include COVID-19 related unemployment situations
- Waives work search requirement

On the tax filing, it aligns Ohio with the federal government:

- Moving the tax filing deadline from April 15th to July 15th
- Extends date for estimated payments
- Waives interest payments (penalties already able to be waived)
- Not withstands the “20-day rule” under municipal income tax for employees working from home during the health emergency plus 30 days
- Extends due date of the state-administered municipal net profit tax

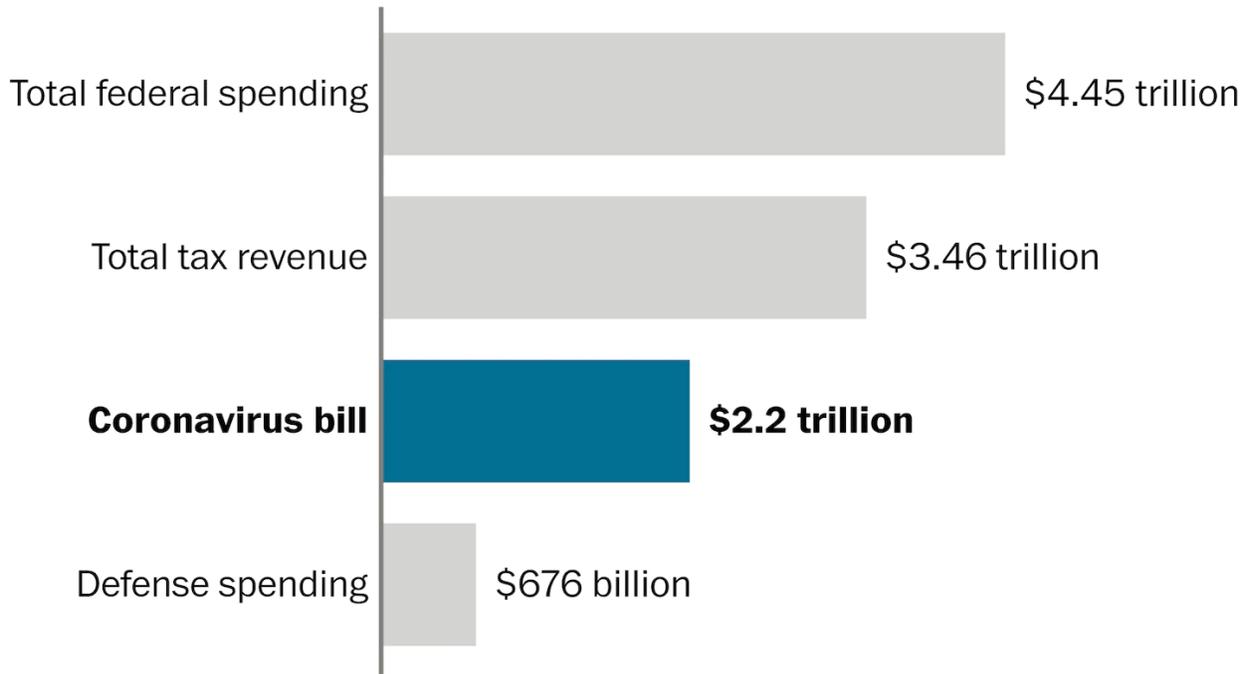
- Speaker Larry Householder told reporters a re-appropriations bill likely will wait until June, and a capital budget bill is unlikely to be coming any time soon, given the uncertain circumstances. He said the legislature likely will address those issues, as well as a possible stimulus for the state economy, sometime down the road. He had this to say about the capital budget though: “I would caution everybody on taking on new debt right now. The things we’re on right now, 180 days from now, it’s all going to look different.”
- According to Hannah News Service, Senate President Obhof said, "I think it's a very difficult time for everybody, and there's no point in sugar-coating that." The Senate President praised the Governor's balancing of economic and medical priorities. Senate President Obhof said the quickest way back to business as usual is to "be sure first and foremost that everybody is safe."
- Lt. Gov. Husted has recommended businesses create their own documentation with rationale for staying open and what measures they are taking to implement safe workplace practices and social distancing protocols. It is GCP's recommendation that you review the recent [ODH order](#) and [FAQs](#) with your legal counsel and/or go to [coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://coronavirus.ohio.gov) for additional information.

- The Ohio Treasurer unveiled a [program](#) to help hospitals save, gain liquidity during COVID-19.
- According to the Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association, Ohio hotels are preparing to serve as emergency shelters if needed during the COVID-19 crisis.

Federal Updates

## How big is the coronavirus relief bill?

How the proposed coronavirus bill compares to government spending and revenue in 2019



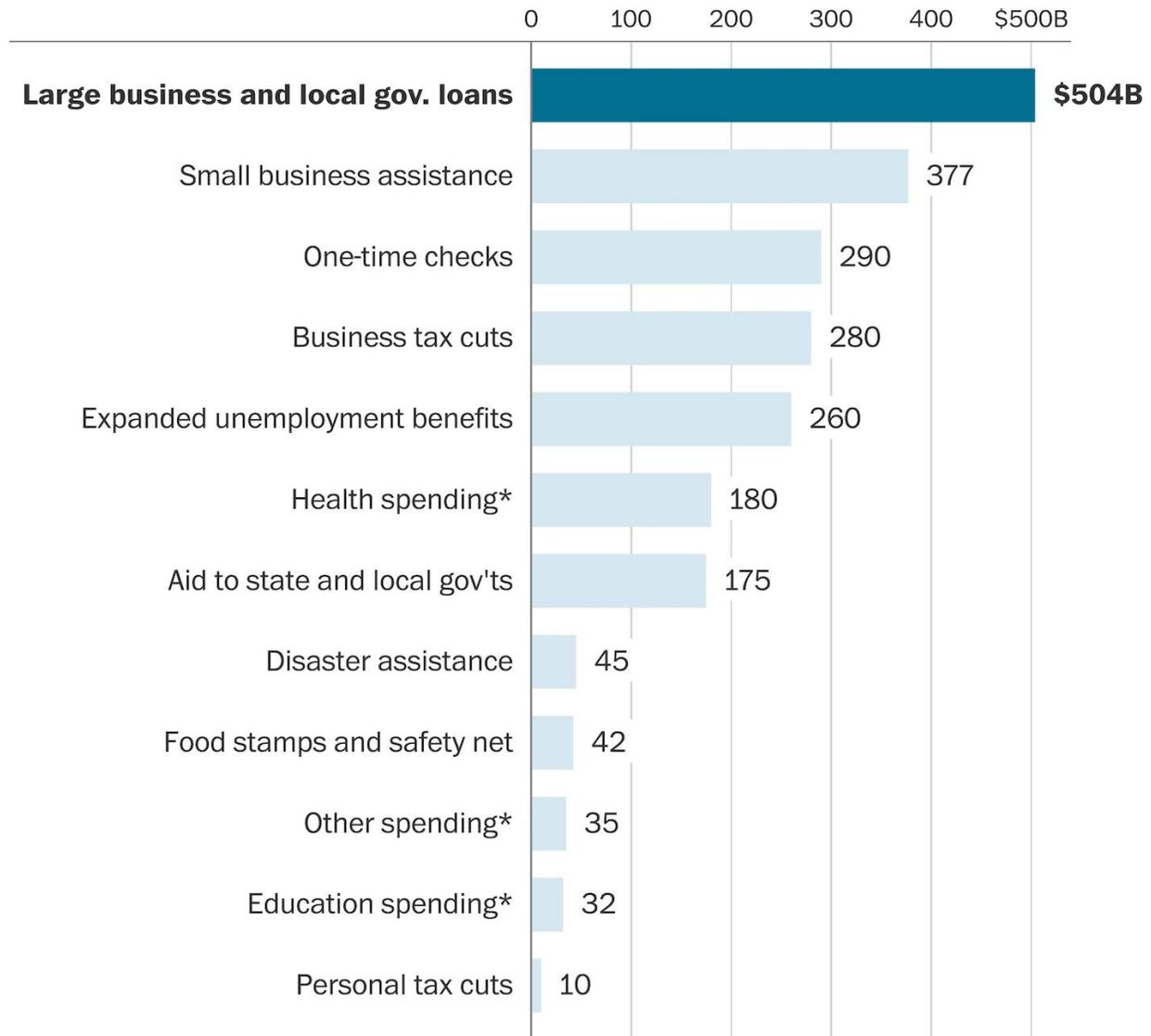
Source: Congressional Budget Office

THE WASHINGTON POST

- The U.S. Senate on Wednesday approved a roughly \$2.2 trillion, 880-page stimulus package to send direct payments and jobless benefits to individuals as well as money to states and businesses devastated by the coronavirus pandemic. The legislation is the third federal stimulus response to COVID-19. The U.S. House of Representatives is said to meet and pass it at 9:00 a.m. Friday.

According to The White House, the legislation provides nearly \$300 billion in direct cash payments for every American citizen earning less than \$99,000 per year; up to \$250 billion in expanded unemployment benefits, including for independent-contractors and self-employed workers; \$350 billion in job retention loans for small businesses; and over \$500 billion in support for the hardest hit industries, with a ban on corporate stock buybacks. [You can read the bill language and section-by-section summaries here.](#)

## What's in the \$2.2T coronavirus relief bill



\* Minimum figure

Source: Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget

THE WASHINGTON POST

- In other federal news, the U.S. Department of Transportation has reportedly made modifications related to obtaining or renewing commercial driver licenses (CDLs) and other licenses that are vital to the efficient movement of essential goods across the state and country, while ensuring that safety standards are still being followed. [See here for the waiver issued.](#)

### Local Updates

- Cuyahoga County has developed a multi-lingual resource page [here](#).

- [“Cuyahoga County judges, defense lawyers create task force to evaluate courthouse response to ‘new coronavirus era’”](#)
- Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson signed a plan where payments on economic development loans from the city may be deferred for six months. This will become effective on April 1. The city is in the process of sending letters to companies that it has loans with, and they will be working with borrowers as needed to adjust their payments. The initiative may allow the city’s development director to aid businesses seeking deferments on loans issued by other lenders. “Basically, we’re taking a rest for six months. Then we’ll try to move on,” Economic Development Director David Ebersole told City Council Monday during a committee hearing.