COVID-19 UPDATE

THE CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT (CARES ACT)
HEADS TO PRESIDENT TRUMP’S DESK

MARCH 27, 2020

Topline Updates

• The United States House of Representatives was gavelled into session this morning at 9:00 AM and after some debate, the House passed The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act by voice vote. The massive package totaling $2.3 trillion now heads to the President for his signature.

• Unprecedented times called for unprecedented changes in the way Members of Congress accessed the Capitol, the Floor of the House, and the way they will vote during the pandemic. See more details below.

• Both the House and Senate will remain in pro forma sessions between now and April 20th as they begin drafting the framework for the next COVID-19 response bill. It is our belief that the Pelosi Draft Bill we reported on a few days ago – HR 6379, Take Responsibility for Workers and Families Act – will become the foundation of the next Package considered by Congress.

• Now the real work of implementing the provisions in this massive package begins and interpreting how and what nearly 900 pages of text really means will be a huge undertaking.

• HBS will monitor, help influence, interpret, and report these developments daily and through our COVID-19 Updates. As agencies issue important guidance or regulations, we will inform our clients. We do not anticipate issuing any updates over the weekend and will resume our daily updates on Monday.

• For those interested in reading the entire bill, here is a link to The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, (the CARES Act); S. 3548 as passed in the Senate on March 25, 2020.

• Coronavirus Case Update

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Cases 3.26.20</th>
<th>Total Cases 3.27.20</th>
<th>Difference from Last Update</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global</td>
<td>510,736</td>
<td>549,604</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>75,665</td>
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1 As of 9:00 AM, March 27, 2020; https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries
Unprecedented Times Call for Unprecedented Voting Measures in the House

Earlier today, we obtained a copy of a memorandum from the House of Representatives’ Sergeant at Arms outlining new and unprecedented voting measures that were implemented in the House this morning.

The new procedures put in place that for the first time in history limited access to the Floor of the House to only those Members who are scheduled to speak during debate. Additionally, access to the Capitol is strictly limited to Members of Congress, Congressional staff who have an office located inside the Capitol, and staff who have designated Floor access. The guidance also outlined procedures for avoiding elevators unless necessary, new procedures for access to House Office buildings by the public, and access to dining facilities.

The most significant change to floor procedures is the change to the actual way Members of Congress will vote today. According to the memo, the Sergeant at Arms noted that “we will be monitoring the number of Members in the Capitol and on the Floor to ensure we maintain safe social distancing at all times. Members who are ill with respiratory symptoms or fever are discouraged from attending. In the event of a recorded vote, Members will be notified. At such time, voting will be done alphabetically in groups of 30 Members over an extended period of time, to minimize the risks posed by placing too many individuals in one location.”

These procedures will be implemented on a temporary basis and will be reevaluated throughout the pandemic to protect the public, Members of Congress, and the nearly 10,000 Congressional employees who work in the Capitol complex.