

Maryland State-Level Measures

Unemployment Insurance. Emergency legislation allows Maryland workers to collect unemployment insurance if their business has been closed due to COVID-19, if they have been quarantined or if a family member has been quarantined. All work search requirements for unemployment insurance benefits have been waived. Maryland has no waiting period for filing unemployment insurance claims.

Disaster Declaration. Maryland has received statewide disaster declaration from the SBA, which allows small businesses in Maryland that had been affected by the coronavirus to immediately apply directly for low interest federal disaster loans to help cover the costs of payroll bills and accounts payable with long term payments stretching up to 30 years.

Maryland Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Relief Loan Fund. This \$75 million loan fund offers no interest or principal payments due for the first 12 months, then converts to a 36-month term loan of principal and interest payments, with an interest rate at 2% per annum.

Maryland Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grant Fund. This \$50 million grant program offers grants for Maryland businesses and nonprofits with 50 or fewer employees. The amount of these grants may be up to \$10,000, but cannot exceed 3 months of demonstrated cash operating expenses for the first quarter of 2020.

Maryland COVID-19 Emergency Relief Manufacturing Fund. This \$5 million incentive program helps Maryland manufacturers to produce personal protective equipment that is urgently needed by hospitals and health-care workers across the country.

Maryland Taxes. Maryland business and individual income taxpayers will be given a 90-day extension for tax payments. No interest or penalty for late payments will be imposed if 2019 tax payments are made by July 15, 2020.

The Comptroller is also extending to June 1, 2020, the due date for returns and payments due in March, April, and May for businesses filing sales and use tax; withholding tax; admissions and amusement tax; alcohol, tobacco, and motor fuel excise taxes; tire recycling fee returns; and bay restoration fee returns. Businesses filing and paying by the extended due date will not accrue interest and penalties. To file these returns by the extended deadline, taxpayers must not combine sales for separate reporting periods into a single return and should instead file the separate returns reflecting the sales and the tax collected for each filing period as if they had been filed according to their original due dates. The Comptroller in a March 20, 2020 press release said that businesses that paid sales and use taxes due in March early may request a refund of their payment and repay by the extended due date of June 1, 2020.

The Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (MD SDAT) has announced that deadlines for all annual reports and personal property tax returns will be delayed until at least 30 days “after the expiration of the current Executive Order” (i.e., the termination of the state of emergency). The MD SDAT plans to make a formal announcement on the new due date soon. The MD SDAT’s website maintains a notice stating that taxpayers must request a business annual report filing extension by July 15, 2020—an apparent extension from the standard April 15 deadline.