

FROM:

MWWPR, Public Affairs

RE:

Recap of COVID-19 Related Legislation Passed in the Assembly

- + A3841-** Automatically extends time to file gross income tax or corporation business tax return if federal government extends filing or payment due date for federal returns.

 - ✓ This bill automatically extends the time to file a gross income tax or corporation business tax return if the federal government extends the filing or payment due date for federal returns.
 - ✓ The extended due date would be no later than June 30, 2020.

- + A3843-** Requires health insurance and Medicaid coverage for testing of coronavirus disease 2019 and for telemedicine and telehealth during coronavirus disease 2019 state of emergency.

 - ✓ This bill requires health insurance carriers (health, hospital and medical service corporations, health maintenance organizations and insurance companies), as well as the State and School Employees' Health Benefits Programs and the State Medicaid program, to provide coverage for expenses incurred in:
 - the testing for coronavirus disease 2019, provided that a licensed medical practitioner issued a medical order for the test
 - the delivery of health care services through telemedicine or telehealth

- + A3844-** Concerns business interruption insurance during coronavirus disease 2019 state of emergency.

 - ✓ This bill provides a mechanism by which certain businesses that suffer losses due to interruption as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic may recover those losses from their insurer if they had a policy of business interruption insurance in force on March 9, 2020.
 - ✓ The bill would apply to businesses covered by such a policy with less than 100 eligible employees in the State of New Jersey.
 - "Eligible employee" is defined as a full-time employee who works a 34 normal work week of 25 or more hours.

- + A3845-** Authorizes EDA to make grants during periods of emergency declared by Governor and for duration of economic disruptions due to emergency; allows EDA to grant certain business documentation submission deadline extensions.

 - ✓ This bill authorizes the New Jersey Economic Development Authority to provide grants during periods of emergency declared by the Governor, such as the

declaration regarding the Coronavirus disease 2019, and for the duration of economic disruptions due to the emergency.

- ✓ The bill gives the authority the power to offer grants for the planning, designing, acquiring, constructing, reconstructing, improving, equipping, and furnishing of a project, including, but not limited to, grants for working capital and meeting payroll requirements.

+ A3846- Creates "Temporary Lost Wage Unemployment Program" to allow persons to claim for lost wages due to the coronavirus disease 2019.

- ✓ This bill creates the "Temporary Lost Wage Unemployment Program" to allow individuals affected by the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic to recoup lost wages due to absence from work under certain circumstances and to assist employers who pay wages to workers who are ordered under quarantine by a licensed healthcare practitioner.
- ✓ The Department of Labor and Workforce Development will use moneys in the fund, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000, to pay the lost wages of individuals due to:
 - the individual's absence from work due to the need to care for a family member;
 - the individual's absence from work due to the illness of the individual;
 - the individual's absence from work due to school or childcare facility being closed;
 - and for such other purposes as determined by the commissioner
- ✓ Additionally, the department will use moneys in the fund, not to exceed \$10,000,000, to assist employers who pay wages to workers who are ordered under quarantine.

+ A3847- Provides paid leave without utilizing accumulated leave for local government employees under certain circumstances.

- ✓ This bill provides that an employee of a political subdivision of the State would receive fully paid leave, without having to utilize any accumulated leave time, if the absence is related to COVID-19.
- ✓ A local government employee would also receive fully paid leave, without having to utilize any accumulated leave time, if the employee is absent in order to stay home with a child due to the closure of a preschool program, elementary or secondary school, or child care center that is related to COVID-19.

+ A3848 - Concerns time off from work in connection with infectious disease.

- ✓ This bill prohibits an employer, during the Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency declared by the Governor, from terminating or refusing to reinstate an employee if the employee requests or takes time off from work based on a

written or electronically transmitted recommendation from a medical professional licensed in New Jersey.

- + A3849-** Permits public agency to respond to request for government record within 21 calendar days during period of emergency or other exigency.

 - ✓ Under current law, a custodian of a government record for a public agency is required to grant access to a government record or deny a request for access to a government record as soon as possible, but not later than seven business days after receiving the request.
 - ✓ This bill provides that during a state of emergency, public health emergency, or state of local disaster emergency, a custodian of a government record for a public agency will be required only to make a reasonable effort to respond to a request for a government record within seven business days, or as soon as possible thereafter, as the circumstances permit.

- + A3850-** Allows local government agencies to meet electronically during declared Public Health Emergency or State of Emergency.

 - ✓ This bill authorizes a public body to conduct a meeting and public business, cause a meeting to be open to the public, vote, and receive public comment by means of communication or other electronic equipment during a state of emergency, public health emergency, or state of local disaster emergency.
 - ✓ The bill also allows a public body to provide notice of meetings electronically through the internet during that time.

- + A3851-** Extends deadlines for adoption of county and municipal budgets under certain circumstances.

 - ✓ This bill expands the current authority of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, in the Department of Community Affairs, to extend the statutory dates for the introduction and approval, and for the adoption, of county and municipal budgets when the Governor has declared a Public Health Emergency or State of Emergency.

- + A3852-** Allows conduct of state business and legislative sessions at locations other than Trenton during periods of emergency or other exigency, allows conduct of legislative business using electronic means.

 - ✓ This bill allows the conduct of State business and legislative sessions at locations other than Trenton during periods of emergency or other exigency.
 - ✓ The bill also allows the Legislature to use any technology or electronic means to conduct its business.

- + A3854-** Authorizes licensed health care facilities and laboratories to develop and administer coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) tests; allows waiver of staffing ratio requirements.
 - ✓ This bill provides that, for the duration of the public health emergency declared in connection with the coronavirus disease 2019, all licensed health care facilities and clinical laboratories will be authorized to collect specimens for the purposes of testing for COVID-19.
 - ✓ The bill also authorizes the Commissioner of Health, during a public health emergency, to waive mandatory staffing ratio requirements for health care facilities.

- + A3855-** Requires food access information be displayed on websites of 2-1-1 system and executive branch departments during public health emergencies.
 - ✓ This bill requires the Statewide 2-1-1 system and all executive branch departments, to the extent practicable, to prominently display information concerning food access programs and resources through their main websites and social media throughout the duration of any declared public health emergency.

- + A3856-** Makes FY2020 supplemental appropriation of \$10 million for residential facility sanitation due to coronavirus disease 2019 outbreak.
 - ✓ Under the bill, the \$10 million is to be used to provide financial assistance to certain health care and residential facilities in meeting the sanitation demands imposed by the coronavirus disease 2019.
 - ✓ These facilities are limited to: nursing homes; long-term care facilities; Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly, or PACE, facilities; federally qualified health centers; urgent care facilities; retirement centers; senior centers; intermediate care facilities; State developmental centers; group homes for individuals with medical needs; State psychiatric hospitals; post-acute rehabilitation centers; medical day care centers; residential schools for children with complex medical needs; group homes for individuals with mental health, substance use, or behavioral health conditions; and homeless shelters.

- + A3857-** Makes FY2020 supplemental appropriation of \$15 million to Community Food Bank of New Jersey to provide meals for children who are out of school and received subsidized lunches.
 - ✓ This bill supplements the FY 2020 appropriations act by appropriating \$15 million for grants to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, the Food Bank of South Jersey, and Fulfill Monmouth & Ocean to provide food assistance to households in need.

- + A3858-** Requires Commissioner of Human Services to issue supplemental cash assistance payments to recipients of certain public assistance programs under certain circumstances; makes appropriation.
 - ✓ This bill directs the Commissioner of Human Services, in collaboration with county welfare agencies, to issue supplemental cash assistance payments to eligible recipients of the Work First New Jersey program, in addition to the standard benefits issued under the program, subject to the following conditions:
 - during a public health emergency declared by the Governor,
 - the payments shall be in an amount equal to a recipient's monthly benefit amount for the most recent complete month.

- + A3859-** Concerns prohibition of residential tenant eviction and eviction due to residential foreclosure during certain emergency circumstances.
 - ✓ This bill provides that, whenever a public health emergency or a state of emergency is declared by the Governor and is in effect, the Governor may issue an executive order to declare that a lessee, tenant, homeowner or any other person would not be removed from a residential property as the result of an eviction or foreclosure proceeding.
 - ✓ This executive order would remain in effect for no longer than two months following the end of the public health emergency or state of emergency.

- + A3861-** Permits corporations to hold shareholders' meetings in part or solely by means of remote communication during state of emergency
 - ✓ This bill permits corporations to hold shareholders' meetings in part or solely by means of remote communication.
 - ✓ The bill also provides that shareholders participating in a meeting of shareholders by means of remote communication are deemed to be present in person and are entitled to vote at the meeting, regardless of whether the meeting is held at a designated place or solely by means of remote communication.

- + A3862-** Permits professional and occupational licensing boards to expedite licensure of certain individuals during state of emergency or public health emergency.
 - ✓ This bill allows the director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety, with the approval of the Attorney General, to expedite the professional and occupational licensing process for out-of-state individuals when the New Jersey Governor has declared a state of emergency.
 - ✓ The individual applying for a specific license, certificate of registration, or certification must have a corresponding license, certificate of registration or certification in good standing from another jurisdiction.
 - ✓ The bill also gives the director and applicable boards the ability to waive certain requirements normally required, such as a criminal history record background

check of an individual and payment of certain fees for the license, certificate of registration or certification.

- + **A3863-** Extends petition filing deadline by two weeks for all candidates, and waives signature requirements for candidates for party office, for 2020 primary election.
 - ✓ Under current law, candidates for county committee are required to comply with the number of signatures required.
 - ✓ This bill would waive the signature requirements for candidates for party office, but would require their nominating petitions to have at least one signature.
 - ✓ Under current law candidates are required to submit their petitions to the municipal clerk, county clerk, or Secretary of State, before 4:00 PM of the 64th day next preceding the primary election.
 - ✓ This bill extends the petition filing deadline by two weeks for all candidates.

- + **A3864-** Authorizes notaries public to perform certain notarial acts remotely.
 - ✓ Under the bill, a remotely located individual would be allowed to use communication technology to appear before a notarial officer.
 - ✓ A notarial officer located in this State would be authorized to perform a notarial act using communication technology for a remotely located individual if the notarial officer:
 - has personal knowledge of the identity of the individual;
 - has satisfactory evidence of the identity of the remotely located individual;
 - has obtained satisfactory evidence of the identity of the remotely located individual by using at least two different types of identity proofing.

- + **A3865-** Limits return of items purchased from retail food stores under certain circumstances.
 - ✓ This bill makes it an unlawful practice for a retail food store to accept the return, with limited exceptions, of any groceries and other foodstuffs purchased during, and for 30 days following, a state of emergency declared in response to COVID-19.

- + **ACR165-** Urges DHS to apply for federal waivers to facilitate and increase access to SNAP benefits during the coronavirus disease 2019 outbreak.
 - ✓ This concurrent resolution strongly urges the Department of Human Services to apply for any federal waivers available to increase and extend access to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, and ease any administrative barriers to accessing benefits that arise from the nationwide outbreak of the coronavirus disease 2019.

- + **AJR158-** Urges FCC to take temporary measures to secure broadband access for those affected by Covid-19.

- ✓ This joint resolution urges the Federal Communications Commission to take temporary measures to secure broadband access for those affected by the COVID-19 public health emergency.