

Enacted Coronavirus Crisis Related Legislation

Act Number	Signing/Effective Date	Act Summary
Act 1A	Approved by the Governor, 5/29, Effective 7/1	<p>This act is an interim 2020-2021 spending plan that provides five months of funding for most state agencies and services. The act appropriates \$25.75 billion to the General Fund Budget, including approximately \$2.6 billion in federal CARES Act funding, and this funding is based on 2019-2020 budget.</p> <p>Certain spending, such as education, pensions, food programs and some essential health and environmental services, are funded for a full year and remain at the same level as the previous budget. Additionally, the budget provides for \$625 million to counties through block grants for various uses, including aiding local governments. It also includes \$420 million to assist nursing homes recovering from COVID-19, \$50 million for food security services, \$225 million for grants to small businesses and \$300 million from the CARES Act funding to make up for a decline in gaming revenue to support property tax relief. The act makes other line item appropriations.</p>
Act 2A	Approved by the Governor, 5/29, Effective 5/29	<p>This act, the COVID-19 Emergency Supplement to the General Appropriation Act of 2019, provides interim funding for the fiscal year 2020-2021 and provides supplemental appropriations to Act 1A of 2020. This interim funding is intended to address costs and financial burdens incurred during the COVID-19 epidemic.</p> <p>Following Act 1A, this act also appropriates approximately \$2.6 billion of the \$3.9 billion in federal CARES Act funding provided to the Commonwealth to counties, fire and emergency services, long-term living facilities, small businesses and other entities. Act 24 further regulates how counties can use the CARES Act funds appropriated to them through this act.</p>
Act 9	Approved by the Governor, 3/27 Effective 3/27	<p>This act eliminates the one-week waiting period for unemployment compensation, and relieves employers from being charged for unemployment claims related to COVID-19. It also clears the way for extended federal unemployment benefits and expected federal benefits for self-employed individuals and independent contractors.</p>
Act 10	Approved by the Governor, 3/27, Effective 3/27	<p>This act extends the deadlines for paying and filing state income tax returns to follow federal deadlines, which have been moved to July 15. It requires the Department of Community and Economic Development to coordinate with local governments to extend the local tax filing and payment date to coincide with the new federal and state date of July 15. It also allows for the transfer of up to \$50 million in state funds to be used to help hospitals, nursing facilities and EMS providers to purchase medical equipment and supplies to address COVID-19.</p>
Act 12	Approved by the Governor, 3/27, Effective 3/27	<p>This act moves the Commonwealth's primary election to June 2, 2020.</p>
Act 13	Approved by the Governor, 3/27, Effective 3/27	<p>This act only impacts the 2019/20 school year by waiving the 180-day school year requirement, waiving standardized testing requirements and school employees employed before March 13, 2020 will continue to be paid for the rest of the school year. It also authorizes the Secretary of Education to close all schools until the COVID-19 crisis is over.</p>
Act 15	Approved by the Governor, 4/20, Effective 4/20	<p>This act provides general authority of local governments during emergency declarations by establishing a blanket authority to hold a meeting without a physical quorum present in any one location. A quorum can be established through the use of telecommunications devices. A political subdivision and its entities may conduct business through the use of an authorized telecommunications device. To the extent practicable, advance notice of a meeting must be posted on the entity's website, in a newspaper of general circulation, or both. Further amendments provide guidance for managing approval requests during the crisis, as well as providing property tax relief. It also amends Title 42 (Judiciary) and Title 57 (Notaries Public) allowing a notary public located in this Commonwealth to perform a notarial act facilitated by communication technology for a remotely located individual.</p>

Act 17	<p>Approved by the Governor, 4/29, Effective 4/29</p>	<p>This act requires the Department of Health to allow EMS agencies to file for a waiver or exception from the staffing requirements for extraordinary circumstances as determined by the department on a case-by-case basis and in the best interest of the EMS system and patient care. The act also amends Title 35 concerning the Heart and Lung Act by providing law enforcement and firefighters with their continued salary should they contract COVID-19 and are unable to work or ordered to quarantine. It provides National Guard Service Members with benefits if they contract COVID-19. There is a 60 day limitation on the benefit.</p>
Act 18	<p>Approved by the Governor, 5/8, Effective 5/8</p>	<p>This act suspends a portion of the Act 47 provisional hiring law through either December 31, 2020, or 60 days after the expiration of Governor Wolf's COVID-19 emergency declaration, whichever would come first. Initial hires are able to commence employment without the completion of the federal criminal history and fingerprinting provisions of Act 47 if the following conditions are met: the applicant has been a resident of Pennsylvania for the previous 10 years or submits the equivalent of the Pennsylvania State police criminal background check from the previous state of residence; the applicant submits the Pennsylvania State Police criminal background check and the statewide child abuse database background check; and the applicant is required to affirm in writing that they have not been convicted of any one of an enumerated list of crimes. Lastly, the employer is required to provide documentation as to why the federal criminal history and fingerprinting checks cannot be completed in a timely manner prior to employment.</p>
Act 21	<p>Approved by the Governor, 5/21, Effective 5/21</p>	<p>This act amends the Liquor Code providing a valid restaurant or hotel liquor license that lost more than 25 percent of average monthly total sales because of restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 disaster emergency are able to sell prepared beverages and mixed drinks for off-premise consumption.</p>
Act 23	<p>Approved by the Governor, 5/29, Effective 7/1</p>	<p>This act amends Act 47, the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act. Currently, municipalities in a distressed status may operate a recovery plan for five years as imposed by Act 47. The first provision provides an 18-month extension beyond those five years for municipalities operating pursuant to a recovery plan under Act 47 to move from distressed status. The second provision prohibits a local governmental body or agency from enacting a single use plastics ban through July 1, 2021 or six months after the disaster emergency expires, whichever would come later.</p>
Act 24	<p>Approved by the Governor, 5/29, Effective 5/29</p>	<p>This act establishes the Regional Response Health Collaboration Program within the Department of Human Services by splitting the Commonwealth into six regions. These regions are able to enter into a health collaborative with at least one eligible health collaborative applicant to provide operations, management and administration to protect residents in assisted living residences, long-term care facilities and personal care homes from COVID-19. The Department is responsible for establishing guidelines and standards for the Program as outlined in the act. This act also provides for emergency COVID-19 response to determine how the CARES Act money appropriated in Act 2A can be used by counties, fire and ems services and other entities. CARES Act money is placed in the COVID-19 Response Restricted Account and all money in the account is appropriated by the General Assembly. Funds that remain in the account after November 30, 2020 will be transferred to the Department of Community and Economic Development to distribute the CARES Act funds to eligible counties. Counties that receive these funds may only use them for specific purposes, including providing assistance to cities, boroughs, incorporated towns, or townships located within the county for response and planning efforts related to COVID-19, including the purchase of personal protective equipment.</p>

Act 26	<p>Approved by the Governor, 5/29, Effective 5/29</p>	<p>This act amends Section 7416(f) of Title 35 to add language that volunteer firefighters' relief associations may spend funds "to pay for expenses for cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting of equipment and property, or other expenses incurred to prevent the spread of communicable illnesses." It also establishes the COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program which shall be administered by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) to provide grants to fire and EMS companies to provide services during the novel coronavirus pandemic as identified in the emergency declaration.</p>
Act 37	<p>Approved by the Governor, 6/30, Effective 6/30</p>	<p>This act requires the Treasury Department to identify and review outstanding debt obligations and submit a report to the General Assembly by October 30, 2020.</p>
Act 46	<p>Approved by the Governor, 7/1, Effective 7/1</p>	<p>This act amends Title 53 (Municipalities) regarding the county assessment and taxation of mobile and manufactured homes, and it further provides standards to be followed for an assessment completed during a declared disaster emergency.</p>
Act 70	<p>Approved by the Governor, 7/23, Effective 7/23</p>	<p>This act allows local health departments to notify the Secretary of the Department of Health of the intention to conduct COVID-19 antibody testing, and the Secretary needs to authorize state labs to facilitate the testing within 72 hours of receiving the notification.</p>