



## **D.C. Emergency Legislation in Response to COVID-19 and the Impact on Your Organization**

On March 17, 2020, D.C. enacted emergency legislation, the "[COVID-19 Response Emergency Amendment Act of 2020](#)", to assist individuals and businesses struggling due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Several components of the emergency legislation may impact small businesses, self-employed individuals, and nonprofits.

### **Unemployment Insurance Expansion**

Affected employees are eligible for unemployment insurance. This now also includes affected employees whose employer has provided a date certain for the employee's return to work and employees with a reasonable expectation of continued employment with the current employer. Affected employees are individuals otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance that became unemployed or partially unemployed as a result of the circumstances giving rise to the public health emergency. Payments made to affected employees will not be charged to the experience rating accounts of employers.

### **Expansion of D.C. Family and Medical Leave Act**

During the public health emergency, the typical one-year employment and 1,000-hour work requirement for the D.C. Family and Medical Leave Act do not apply to employees ordered or recommended to quarantine or isolate by the Department of Health, any other District or federal agency, or a medical professional.

Employers, regardless of size, must provide employees unable to work as a result of the

public health emergency with declaration-of-emergency leave.

### **Tax Payment Deferral**

Hotels and motels may pay their first 2020 real property tax installment payment, regularly due by March 31, before June 30, 2020 without penalty or interest.

Businesses subject to sales tax, other than hotels and motels, may pay the sales tax for periods ending February 29, 2020 and March 31, 2020, before June 20, 2020 without penalty or interest.

### **Grants for Small Businesses and Nonprofits**

Small businesses, including for profit businesses eligible for small business enterprise certification, nonprofit organizations, and self-employed individuals or independent contractors denied unemployment insurance, in financial distress due to the public health crisis are eligible for grants and loans to cover the cost of: employee wages and benefits; operating costs, including taxes and debt service; and repayment of loans from the Small Business Administration.

It is expected that the application for grants and loans will open the week of March 23, 2020.

### **Corporate Entity Biennial Report Deadline**

Corporate entities may file their biennial report, regularly due April 1, by June 1, 2020 without penalty.

The D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center's Nonprofit and Small Business Legal Assistance Programs will continue to operate during COVID-19 containment efforts.

Email [cedinfo@dcbbar.org](mailto:cedinfo@dcbbar.org), if your nonprofit or small business has questions, concerns, or requests for assistance.

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