



House Select Committee on COVID-19 Economic Support Working Group

Comments from:

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March 31, 2020

- I. Introduction – The Retail Industry is currently being affected differently depending on what is being sold
 - A. Grocery, Pharmacy, Home Improvement and Appliances
 - B. Clothing, Furniture, Department, Jewelry, Misc
- II. Navigating and balancing the changing laws in the past two weeks while making important business decisions
 - A. New federal paid sick leave act
 - B. New federal Family and Medical Leave Act
 - C. Small Business Administration Loans
 - D. North Carolina and Federal Unemployment Insurance changes and
 - E. The federal Paycheck Protection Act under the CARES Act
- III. Concerns and Suggestions
 - A. One statewide stay-at-home order and set of rules rather than the piecemeal patchwork of laws that we are seeing throughout North Carolina (100 counties + 552 municipalities)
 - 1) Local curfews
 - 2) Local passes being required that are different than the state-issued reentry passes that have been used successfully during hurricanes and in the face of the EO 121 FAQ stating that essential business employees would not need additional documentation when reporting to work.
 - 3) Businesses deemed essential by the Governor’s Executive Order 121 but not seen as essential by a separate county or municipal ordinance

- 4) Pitt County enacted an Order covering the unincorporated areas of the county; Greenville enacted an order specific to Greenville; and, other incorporated cities would fall under the state order.
 - 5) Localities are making decisions in a vacuum without understanding underlying ramifications
- B. Allow employers to file unemployment claims for their employees as an attached claim for unemployment that is related to COVID-19.
- C. Prior to 1987, retailers were permitted to keep a portion of the sales tax collected to offset the cost of collecting and remitting sales tax. Reinstate some form of this collection allowance with part of the money going to the retailer and part of it being utilized to retain employees rather than having these employees end up on unemployment.
- D. Waive the next unemployment insurance premium tax for employers to allow employers to recover some of the nearly \$4 billion paid-in by employers.
- E. Allow self-employed, Member-Managers of LLCs or owners of S corporations to be eligible for unemployment benefits.
- F. While penalties for delayed tax filings were able to be waived through an Executive Order, interest owed was not able to be delayed without the passage of legislation which should occur.
- G. Use either additional funds or funds used for JDIG or One NC grants in rural areas for small businesses outside the manufacturing sector.
- H. Consider using grants for coverage of employee health insurance costs to remove a fixed cost that may lead to layoffs.
- I. Allow for virtual shareholder meetings which are currently not allowed in North Carolina.