

The National Council of Social Security Management Associations, Inc.
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House to Return May 12 as Outlook Becomes Clearer

The House is now scheduled to return on May 12, instead of May 4 with the Senate. When the House comes into session, it will be for one day and they are expected to take votes on the following:

- A resolution allowing for proxy voting;
- A resolution allowing for virtual Committee hearings and markups; and
- The Democratic CARES 2.0 package

The resolution permitting virtual Committee hearings and markups is expected to allow for the annual appropriations process to get underway while at the same time limiting Members' time in Washington, DC. There are rumors that there have been 40+ COVID-19 cases among Capitol Police and construction workers working on the Cannon House Office building.

Regarding the CARES 2.0 package, sources indicate that Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) wants to finalize the package in the very near future. It will likely look similar to the previous [package](#) Democrats released during negotiations over CARES 1.0 and is also expected to include significant funding for state and local governments. Reportedly, Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) said the package will not include additional funds for hospitals.

When the Senate returns on Monday, it is anticipated that personal office staff may be staggering when they are in the office to keep social distancing space. In addition, at least some Committee staff are reportedly being told to continue working from home.

House Appropriations Committee to Hold Hearing on COVID-19 Response

The House Appropriations Committee Labor-HHS Subcommittee will hold an in-person hearing on the federal government's response to the COVID-19 crisis on Wednesday, May 6. As of this report, witnesses have not been announced. While the House is not scheduled to be in session next week, hearings are still permitted under House rules.

Senate Appropriations Committee May Mark Up Labor-HHS in June

It is being reported that Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL), Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, wants to begin marking up Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 appropriations bills before the July 4 recess and a Labor-HHS markup is tentatively expected in mid to late June. The Social Security Administration's administrative funding account is included under the Labor-HHS Subcommittee. Markups may be held virtually, and the Senate Rules Committee is looking at technical questions such as whether Members must remain in view of the camera in order to enable virtual proceedings.

The Senate funding for non-defense discretionary (NDD) programs is expected to fall about \$5 billion short for FY 2021, with a third of that shortfall likely coming from Labor-HHS. A cap adjustment to get around the top line spending levels set by the Budget Control Act (BCA), or designating some spending for agencies such as NIH, CDC, etc. as emergency spending to get around the caps have been floated as possible solutions, but no decisions have been made yet on a way forward.

CDC Guidance on Reopening

Earlier this week the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued new guidance to provide a smooth and safe reopening of public places in the coming weeks and months. The guidance focuses on enhanced disinfection practices, social distancing planning, and other precautions. The full guidance can be found [HERE](#).

NCSSMA Twitter Account

Reminder: NCSSMA has a Twitter account and we encourage you to join in and follow us! You can view and follow our page on your **home computer** at <http://twitter.com/NCSSMAORG> or your **personal mobile device** at <https://mobile.twitter.com/NCSSMAORG>.

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