

**The National Council of Social Security Management Associations, Inc.**  
**GREYSTONE GROUP WASHINGTON REPORT**  
**Legislative Report 09-2020**  
**September 30, 2020**

**Coronavirus Update – House Releases Updated Heroes Act**

On Monday, September 28, the House released an updated version of the Heroes Act. This latest relief package is scaled back from the version passed in May, from roughly \$3.2 trillion to \$2.2 trillion. At the time of this report it is unclear if this latest package will move the needle on negotiations and result in legislation moving through both chambers anytime soon. The White House has indicated their top number is \$1.5 trillion, and some Senate Republicans want a lower number than that. Talks have resumed between House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin. The House is expected to vote this week on either this package, or if an agreement can be reached, on a bipartisan deal. At a minimum, the bill is most likely intended to provide cover for moderate Members as the House prepares to break and head home for the elections.

Links to key materials:

- [Updated bill text](#)
- [One-pager on the legislation](#)
- [Section-by-section summary](#)

Of note is Title III of Division J, which incorporates H.R. 7830, the [Fairness for Seniors and People with Disabilities During COVID-19 Act](#) (provides overpayment relief). It also includes some enhancements, including provisions aimed at preventing the Social Security Administration (SSA) from having to rework cases if the agency already provided relief under the temporary streamlined overpayment waiver process.

**Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Appropriations Update – Senate Considering Continuing Resolution to Avert Shutdown**

The Senate is expected to vote today to pass the Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the federal government open and avert a shutdown as the current fiscal year comes to a close. The text of H.R. 8337 can be found [here](#) and a section-by-section summary of the legislation is [here](#).

Per our last report, appropriators have agreed that they will try to meet the December 11 deadline for passing the FY 2021 appropriations bills. The Senate Appropriations Committee paused action on its spending bills earlier this session because of the threat of controversial amendments. In the House, the Appropriations Committee approved all 12 FY 2021 appropriations measures and 10 of them have been considered and passed on the House Floor.

Senate appropriations staff are reportedly working to finalize their bills with the goal of releasing the text later this fall; the Committee is not expected to formally consider their bills and instead some of kind of an informal conference process is expected to take place. How successful that process is may depend on the outcome of the November elections. It is expected that the text of non-controversial appropriations bills may be posted after the elections. However, when/if the text of more controversial bills, which unfortunately includes the Labor-HHS bill, will be released is unclear. We will continue to communicate with the Hill regarding SSA's administrative funding needs and provide updates.

## **CDC Recommends Changes to Holiday Celebrations to Curb Virus**

On Monday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued new guidance for the upcoming holiday season warning that hosts and attendees at holiday celebrations will need to take steps to limit the risk of contracting and spreading the novel coronavirus. The guidance says that virtual gatherings or those that involve one's immediate household are low risk. The CDC recommends that if people do gather in person for Christmas and other holidays that they are doing so outdoors, keeping groups small, using measures like mask-wearing and social distancing, and considering local virus conditions as well as where attendees are coming from. According to the guidance, traditional celebrations like Halloween trick-or-treating, crowded Thanksgiving parades and Black Friday shopping sprees could spread the virus and should be avoided. The guidance is available [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>.

Greystone Group LLC  
3303 South Wakefield Street  
Arlington, VA 22206  
202-547-8530  
Contact: Rachel A. Emmons  
E-mail: [rachele@greystone-group.com](mailto:rachele@greystone-group.com)