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Special News Announcement



Chamber Daily Update for March 25

News coming out of Washington indicates that we may see an economic stimulus package, or phase three of federal efforts to rescue individuals and businesses during the COVID-19 crisis, voted on and signed shortly by both the House and Senate. Although the details of the measure are still being negotiated, below are some of the purported highlights as reported by USA TODAY.

Also included below is guidance from the Georgia Chamber of Commerce on best practices for businesses remaining open while regulations and restrictions vary across the state from one municipality to the next.

We would also like to thank our Washington DC consultants Hurt, Norton & Associates, Inc. with their guidance and influence in lobbying.

TODAY'S UPDATES

[Congress Announces Agreement on COVID-19 Rescue Package](#)



At roughly 1:30 a.m. ET Wednesday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell announced that an agreement had been reached on an economic stimulus package responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The measure has not yet been voted on or signed by the president, but is likely to include the following:

- One-time payments of \$1,200 to qualified American adults and \$500 per child. The amount you receive will be reduced for higher-income earners, starting at \$75,000 (or \$150,000 for a joint return). The government will likely use your 2018 tax return to decide whether you qualify and how much you receive. [Click here for details on gig workers, the self-employed and the unemployed.](#)
- \$367 billion for small businesses in SBA loan guarantees for small firms. Under the latest proposal, those who retain their staffs wouldn't have to pay the loans back.
- A \$600 increase in the maximum weekly unemployment benefit for four months
- Along with other benefits including funding for the FEMA Disaster Relief Fund, the Defense Production Act, the Centers for Disease Control and more. [Click here for more highlights.](#)

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer called the bipartisan agreement "the largest rescue package in history."

[From the Georgia Chamber: Business Guidance Regarding State and Local Ordinances](#)



As local governments begin implementing a variety of COVID-19 response ordinances, the Georgia Chamber is working with local chambers to clarify intent and to provide guidance for local

local chambers to clarify intent and to provide guidance for local business. Based on current information, here are the Georgia Chamber's recommendations:

- Every Georgia business should implement their plans to protect the health and safety of their customers.
- Every Georgia business should follow the CDC social distancing guidelines. All businesses should make every effort to ensure adequate social distancing occurs by maintaining at least six feet of personal space or as otherwise recommended by the CDC, and providing a station(s) to wash hands with warm water and antibacterial soap, hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol, or both, according to the ordinance.
- Businesses operating in localities that have not implemented restrictions should follow the governor's direction to limit **public** gatherings to 10 or fewer, and, if they decide to remain operational, should strictly enforce social distancing. For example, if your manufacturing facility employs 400 you should ensure that they remain six feet apart or seek further guidance from the Department of Public Health. The Georgia Chamber also recommends providing employees with masks, gloves and other health personal protection equipment (PPE) as needed.
- Essential businesses and services are not considered to be social gatherings.
- As our community has implemented an "essential business and services only" order, the Georgia Chamber strongly recommends that businesses follow the pre-approved Department of Homeland Security (DHS) list of critical industries for national continuity. That list can be found [here](#).

The impact from COVID-19 continues to change by the hour, and the Georgia Chamber as well as your local Savannah Area Chamber will work to provide the best information possible in real-time as we communicate with our partners around the state and country. For real-time COVID-19 updates out of the Georgia Chamber, visit their website at [GAChamber.com/COVID19](https://www.GAChamber.com/COVID19).



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