



June 12, 2020



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

Holding Pattern

Much like planes trapped in a holding pattern, Congress waits to officially begin appropriations markups later this month and early next before flying into what would normally be a long August recess and campaigning for reelection in the fall. With COVID-19 grounding (too many aviation puns?) much of that standard activity, the low thrum of staff laying the groundwork for a summer and fall that are much busier legislatively than normal is replacing some of those more free-wheeling parts of the democratic process.

The Senate has been cleared to begin its markups the week of June 22, taking the unusual step of allowing Senate subcommittees to skip their markups and go straight to full committee if they so choose. At this time, Senate appropriators haven't agreed on the 12 subcommittee funding allocations [also known as as 302(b)s]. Ranking Member Patrick Leahy (D-VT), [told Roll Call](#) that it is possible Democrats will provide their own set of 302(b) allocations during full committee markup as they did last year.

The Senate chamber will also be taking up its appropriations process before the House – another unusual procedure, although it's expected that the House will quickly move beyond the Senate once it gets rolling the week of July 6. Expect policing reform legislation to be a political football for much of this year and be prepared for it to spill over into the appropriations process.

It's currently expected that there will be at least one stopgap bill this fall to temporarily fund federal agencies until after the election in November, and quite possibly more will be necessary.

More News from the Nation's Capital...

Selection of Recently Released Federal COVID-19 Resources

Understanding that it is a challenge to quickly review all the available grant programs for COVID-19, we are creating and updating a list of links for information on programs from FEMA, HHS, CDC, HUD, and others. While it is not comprehensive, it can be quickly consulted for resources on topics that have recently been of interest across the federal interagency (e.g. childcare for essential personnel).

This is updated weekly.

[Read More](#)

Administrator Gaynor Testifies Before Senate HSGAC

The FEMA Administrator testified before the Senate HSGAC regarding the federal government's strategies for procurement and distribution during early months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read More](#)

FEMA Publishes New Mass Care Delivery Guidance

The guidance's goal is to support SLTT governments with planning for mass care delivery in a pandemic environment. It provides information on sheltering, feeding, evacuation, and the federal resource request process.

[Read More](#)

CHDS Webinar: Strategically Planning When You Can't Strategically Plan

The webinar on Wednesday, June 17 will address how to approach reopening decisions when so many questions remain unanswered about the "new normal".

[Read More](#)

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

EDM Digest: [Hurricane Season and COVID-19 Could be the Perfect Storm](#)

Wired: [Will Wildfire Smoke Worsen the Pandemic? We're About to Find Out](#)

The Hill: [Craig Fugate: Emergency Communications Will be the Next Challenge of COVID-19](#)

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