April 2020

THE FISCAL LINK: Your Online Connection to the Latest Fiscal Information in the States

NCSL & National Association of Legislative Fiscal Offices (NALFO) Updates

✓ NCSL’s Fiscal Affairs Program has created and updated webpages in response to the coronavirus, including State Fiscal Responses to COVID-19, Price Gouging State Statutes, Paid Sick Leave and a summary of the federal stimulus package. For more COVID-19 resources, visit NCSL’s central webpage, which is organized by topic.

✓ NCSL hosted a series of webinars on COVID-19. On Friday, March 27, NCSL hosted a webinar examining the fiscal and economic issues associated with COVID-19. View the recorded webinar.

✓ NCSL’s FY 2021 Budget Status webpage is live! This page tracks the current status of state budget enactments.

✓ NCSL sent a letter to congressional leadership requesting flexible direct aid to help support state economies during the COVID-19 pandemic. View the NCSL letter.

✓ NALFO is inviting nominations for the annual NCSL Legislative Staff Achievement Awards. Each NCSL professional staff association may give up to two awards to recognize outstanding staff. These nominations can be for individuals, project teams or entire offices. Click here to find out more information about the nomination process. Nominations need to be received by Wednesday, May 20.

State News & Reports

✓ Iowa. The Legislative Services Agency created an interactive budget analysis data visualization. It highlights the governor’s recommendations by subcommittee for FY 2021 and appropriations by subcommittee from FY 2016-FY 2021, among other details.

✓ Louisiana. The Legislative Fiscal Office published a report on income distribution in the state using the Lorenz Curve with data from tax year 2018.

✓ New Hampshire. The Legislative Budget Assistant’s Office published fiscal briefs on calculating education grants for FY 2020 and FY 2021.
✓ **Ohio.** The Legislative Service Commission maintains an interactive map that allows viewers to find total state spending by county.

✓ **Vermont.** The Joint Fiscal Office created a webpage containing fiscal resources related to COVID-19. These resources highlight spending, revenue and other fiscal information related to the effects of COVID-19.

✓ **Wisconsin.** The Legislative Fiscal Bureau authored a memorandum on potential funding options to address the COVID-19 response.

**Federal News & Reports**


✓ The Congressional Budget Office reported that the amount of federal debt held by the public nearly tripled in the past decade. At the end of 2019, the debt held by the public was $16.8 trillion, equal to 79% of the gross domestic product (GDP), far greater than the average debt for the past 50 years.

✓ The Bureau of Economic Analysis reported that state personal income increased by 4.4% in 2019, compared to the 5.6% increase in 2018.

**Other Items of Interest**

✓ The Pew Charitable Trusts’ Fiscal 50 tracks how many days each state could run on only rainy day funds. View the interactive analysis.

✓ The Brookings Institution released a blog on places that a COVID-19 recession could hit the hardest.

✓ Boston College’s Center for Retirement Research published a special report on retirement models to improve portability and coverage.


**Additional Resources**

✓ Visit the NCSL Fiscal Affairs Program homepage.
✓ Visit the NALFO homepage.
✓ Consult a list of legislative fiscal offices that maintain a webpage.
✓ Join NALFO’s Listserv.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list for The Fiscal Link, or know a legislator or legislative staff person who should be added, just ask Savannah Gilmore or Erica MacKellar.

**NOTE:** Links to external websites and reports are for information purposes only and do not indicate NCSL’s endorsement of the content on those sites.