Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201)

Enacted on March 18, 2020, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201) will go into effect on April 2, 2020. Introduced by Representative Nita Lowey, the bill has a major focus on emergency paid sick leave. The bill created a new, one-year paid sick leave benefits program designed specifically to address COVID-19. Private-sector employers with fewer than 500 employees and all public agencies regardless of size will be required to provide employees with up to 80 hours of paid sick leave for COVID-19 related needs based on a full or part-time employment status (with certain exceptions). Resources such as nutritional assistance for low-income children and adults, expanded unemployment insurance benefits and mandated free COVID-19 testing are also some of the provisions included in the law.