

State Legislative Action on Business Interruption Coverage

* In recent weeks, state legislatures have introduced bills seeking to expand coverage under business interruption policies in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

* We will provide daily updates documenting any relevant new bills and the current procedural posture of existing legislation. Today's actions include:

- The Pennsylvania House amended its bill to create a COVID-19 Disaster Emergency Business Interruption Grant Program to instead establish a Business Interruption Insurance Assistance Program and remove all reference to COVID-19 within the bill text.

* Most states that have introduced legislation on this subject follow this general framework:

- Require business interruption due to the threat posed by COVID-19 to be construed as a “covered peril” under policy;
- Require indemnification of the insured for any loss of business/business interruption during a COVID-19-related state of emergency; and
- Define the policies to which the expansion applies (e.g., policies covering insureds who have less than 100 employees, policies in place during a certain time period, etc.).

Not every state has followed this model and some states deviate in important respects (e.g., application to all insureds, etc.).

* If you operate in a state and notice that we have not included the most up-to-date legislative developments, please let us know.

Business Interruption Legislation

State	Bill	Procedural Posture	General Overview	Indemnification	Application to Insureds	Duration of Application
District of Columbia	B23-0750 / B23-0751	Business Interruption Provisions Removed (May 5, 2020)	<p>Requires every policy in force on or before March 25, 2020, to insure loss of use and occupancy and business interruption shall provide coverage for business interruption directly or indirectly resulting from the D.C. Public Health Emergency.</p> <p>Requires the Commissioner to establish procedures for the submission and qualification of claims by insurers that are eligible for reimbursement.</p> <p>Establishes a separate account for Business Interruption Insurance Reimbursement.</p>	Provides that the coverage will indemnify the insured for any loss of business or business interruption for the duration of the D.C. Public Health Emergency.	Applies to policies issued to insureds who have less than 50 full-time employees, each of whom work 25 or more hours per week as of March 25, 2020 and less than \$2.5 million in federal gross receipts or sales.	Applies both prospectively and retroactively to March 25, 2020.
Louisiana	SB 477	Provisions regarding COVID-19 Business Interruption coverage removed (May 14, 2020)	<p>Requires every policy of insurance covering business interruption delivered/issued for delivery on or after August 1, 2020 to include a notice of all exclusions that is signed by the insured.</p> <p>REMOVED ON MAY 14:</p> <p>Requires every policy of insurance in force on March 11, 2020 and thereafter insuring against loss/damage to property that includes loss of use, loss of occupancy, or business interruption to be construed to include among the covered perils, “coverage for business interruption</p>	<p>REMOVED ON MAY 14:</p> <p>Provides that the coverage will indemnify the insured for any loss of business or business interruption for the duration of the Louisiana state of emergency.</p>		<p>REMOVED ON MAY 14:</p> <p>Applies both prospectively and retroactively to March 11, 2020.</p>

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	HB 858	Introduced (Mar. 31, 2020); referred to the Committee on Insurance (May 4, 2020)	Requires insurers that write policies which insure against loss/damage to property that also provide for coverage of loss of use, loss of occupancy, and business interruption to be construed to include “coverage of business interruptions due to the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.”	Requires insurers to indemnify policyholders who have policies that provide such coverage, subject to the extent of the policyholder’s loss of business or business interruption incurred during the public health emergency.	Applies to policies issued to insureds who have less than 100 full-time employees.	Applies both prospectively and retroactively to March 11, 2020.
Massachusetts	SD 2888	Referred to the Committee on Financial Services (Apr. 21, 2020); House Concurred (Apr. 23, 2020)	Requires every policy of insurance insuring against loss or damage to property (notwithstanding the terms of such policy, including any endorsements or exclusions to coverage), which includes the loss of use, loss of occupancy, and business interruption to be construed to include among the covered perils coverage for business interruption “directly or indirectly resulting from the global pandemic known as COVID-19.” Prohibits an insurer from denying a claim for the loss of use, loss of occupancy, and business interruption on account of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 being a virus (even if the relevant insurance policy excludes losses resulting from viruses); or 	Subject to the policy’s monetary limits and any maximum length of time set forth in the policy for such business interruption coverage, requires the coverage to cover the insured for any loss of business interruption until the emergency declaration is rescinded.	Applies only to policies issued to insureds with 150 or fewer full-time-equivalent employees and which are in force on the effective date of this act (or that become effective prior to the rescission of the emergency declaration).	Applies only to policies that are in force on the effective date of this act (or that become effective prior to the rescission of the emergency declaration).

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There being no physical damage to the property of the insured or to any other relevant property. <p>Allows insurers to apply to the Division of Insurance for reimbursement for claims paid and provides guidance to the Division of Insurance for how to make such reimbursements.</p>			
Michigan	HB 5739	Introduced; referred to Committee on Insurance (Apr. 24, 2020)	Provides that an insurer that delivers, issues for delivery, or renews a business interruption insurance policy must include in the policy coverage for business interruption due to COVID-19.	Requires the coverage to indemnify the insured, subject to the limits under the policy, for any loss of business or business interruption.	Applies to policies in force upon the effective date of the legislation and issued to insureds that have less than 100 eligible employees in Michigan (i.e., full-time employees who work a normal workweek of 25+ hours).	Applies for the duration of Michigan's state of emergency.
New Jersey	AB 3844	Reported out of the Assembly Committee on Homeland Security and State Preparedness by 63-0-0 (Mar. 16, 2020)	<p>Requires every policy of insurance insuring against loss or damage to property, which includes the loss of use, loss of occupancy, and business interruption to be construed to include among the covered perils coverage for business interruption due to COVID-19.</p> <p>Allows insurers to apply to the Department of Banking and Insurance for reimbursement for claims paid and provides guidance to the Department of Banking and Insurance for how to make such reimbursements.</p>	Requires coverage to indemnify the insured, subject to the limits under the policy, for any loss of business or business interruption for the duration of that declared state of emergency in New Jersey.	Applies to policies issued to insureds with less than 100 eligible employees (i.e., a full-time employee who works a normal workweek of 25+ hours) in the state.	Applies retroactively to March 9, 2020.

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New York	S 8319	Referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business (May 11, 2020)	<p>Establishes the Coronavirus Business Interruption and Municipal Recovery Program to provide grants to businesses and municipalities which sustain economic losses as a result of the COVID-19 emergency.</p> <p>Details the eligibility and operation requirements of the grant program.</p>			
	AB 10327	Introduced; referred to the Committee on Insurance (Apr. 22, 2020)	<p>Requires every policy of insurance insuring against loss or damage to property, which includes the loss of use, loss of occupancy, and business interruption to be construed to include among the covered perils under that policy, coverage for business interruption during a period of declared state of emergency due to COVID-19.</p> <p>Allows insurers to apply to DFS for reimbursement for claims paid and provides guidance to DFS for how to make such reimbursements.</p>	Provides that coverage will indemnify the insured, subject to the limits under the policy, for any loss of business or business interruption for the duration of a period of a declared state of emergency due to COVID-19.	Applies to insureds with such coverage who operate certain programs and services (e.g., mental health outpatient providers, substance use disorder treatment providers, diagnostic and treatment centers, mental hygiene clinics, primary care physicians or other providers, etc.).	Applies retroactively to policies in force on or after March 7, 2020.
	SB 8178	Enacting Clause Stricken (Apr. 17, 2020); amended and recommitted to the Committee	Requires every policy of insurance insuring against loss or damage to property, which includes the loss of use, loss of occupancy, and business interruption to be construed to include among the covered perils under that policy, coverage for business interruption during a period of a declared state of emergency due to COVID-19.	Requires the coverage to indemnify the insured, subject to the limits under the policy, for any loss of business or business interruption for the	Applies to policies issued to insureds with less than 100 eligible employees (i.e., full-time employees who work a normal work-week of 25+ hours) in	Applies retroactively to policies in force on or after March 7, 2020.

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		on Insurance (May 1, 2020)	Allows insurers to apply to DFS for reimbursement for claims paid and provides guidance to DFS for how to make such reimbursements.	duration of a period of a declared state of emergency due to COVID-19.	force on the date the legislation takes effect.	
	SB 8211 AB 10226	SB: Referred to the Committee on Insurance (Apr. 17, 2020) AB: Amended and recommitted to the Committee on Insurance (Apr. 29, 2020)	Provides that every policy of insurance insuring against loss or damage to property, which includes—but is not limited to—the loss of use, loss of occupancy, and business interruption: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be construed to include among the covered perils under that policy, coverage for business interruption during a period of a declared state of emergency due to COVID-19. • Whose policy expires during a period of a declared state of emergency due to COVID-19 will be subject to an <u>automatic renewal</u> of the policy at the current rate of charge. • Which allows the insurer to deny coverage based on a virus, bacterium, or other microorganism that causes disease, illness, or physical distress, will be null and void (provided that the other clauses and provisions will remain in effect for the duration of the contract term). <p>Allows insurers to apply to DFS for reimbursement for claims paid and provides guidance to DFS for how to make such reimbursements.</p>	Provides that coverage will indemnify the insured, subject to the limits under the policy, for any loss of business or business interruption for the duration of a period of a declared state of emergency due to COVID-19.	Policies issued to insureds with less than 250 eligible employees (i.e., full-time employees who work a normal work-week of 25+ hours) in force on the date the legislation takes effect.	Applies retroactively to policies in force on or after March 7, 2020.

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Ohio	HB 589	Referred to the Committee on Insurance (May 5, 2020); introduced (Mar. 24, 2020)	<p>Requires every policy of insurance insuring against loss or damage to property, which includes the loss of use, loss of occupancy, and business interruption to be construed to include among the covered perils under that policy, coverage for business interruption due to global virus transmission or pandemic during the Ohio state of emergency.</p> <p>Allows insurers to apply to the Department of Insurance for reimbursement for claims paid and provides guidance to the Department of Insurance for how to make such reimbursements.</p>	Provides that the coverage will indemnify the insured, subject to the limits under the policy, for any loss of business or business interruption for the duration of the Ohio state of emergency.	Applies only to businesses that employ 100 or fewer eligible employees (i.e., full-time employees who work a normal work-week of 25+ hours).	Applies only to businesses that were covered by a policy of insurance that was in force on the effective date of the legislation.
Pennsylvania	SB 1127	Referred to Senate Banking and Insurance (Apr. 30, 2020)	<p>Establishes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a person positively identified as having been infected with COVID-19 has been present in, or if COVID-19 has otherwise been detected in a building, an office, a retail space, a structure, a plant, a facility, a commercial establishment or other area of business activity, this area of business activity shall be deemed to have experienced the actual, and not merely suspected, presence of a “communicable disease.” • If a person positively identified as having been infected with COVID-19 has been present in, or if the presence of COVID-19 has otherwise been detected in a building, an office, a 		<p>Applies to each and every property, all-risk, business interruption, contingent business interruption, time element and contingent time element insurance claim where the property giving rise to the claimed loss is located within Pennsylvania and the losses claimed to be insured arise out of, or relate to, the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Applies to insurance companies that provide</p>	Applies retroactively to policies in force on or before March 6, 2020.

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			<p>retail space, a structure, a plant, a facility, a commercial establishment or other area of business activity, or a municipality in which these commercial establishments are located, it shall be deemed to have experienced “property damage.”</p> <p>Provides that in any claim for insurance for losses relating to property damage, business interruption, contingent business interruption, time element, contingent time element or losses of a similar nature arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, the rules of construction in the act shall apply to first-party insurance policy provisions that are the subject of the claims.</p> <p>Provides that the loss of market exclusion, and similar exclusions, in a first-party policy may not be interpreted to apply to preclude coverage for COVID-19-related losses if one of the reasons for reduced customer demand for a policyholder’s goods or services is the same COVID-19 pandemic that gives rise to the policyholder's losses for which coverage is sought.</p> <p>Requires that each provision of this act and every application of the provisions of this act are severable from each other as a matter of State law.</p>		coverage against property damage, loss of use or occupancy or business interruption, and similar coverages, with respect to property in Pennsylvania.	
	HB 2386	Re-reported as amended (May 28, 2020);	Establishes the Business Interruption Insurance Assistance Program within the Department of Community and Economic			

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		Recommitted to the Committee on Finance (Apr. 28, 2020)	<p>Development which would promote the purchase of business interruption insurance and may provide financial assistance to eligible businesses to partially offset business interruption insurance premiums.</p> <p>REMOVED ON MAY 27:</p> <p>Establishes the COVID-19 Disaster Emergency Business Interruption Grant Program within the Department of Community and Economic Development to provide funding for the continuing operation of businesses during and after the COVID-19 disaster emergency.</p> <p>Details the eligibility and operation requirements of the grant program.</p>			
	SB 1114	Referred to the Committee on Banking and Insurance (Apr. 15, 2020)	<p>Requires a policy of insurance insuring against a loss related to property damage—including the loss of use, loss of occupancy, and business interruption—to be construed to include among the covered perils coverage for loss or property damage due to COVID-19 and coverage for loss due to a civil authority order related to the declared disaster emergency and exigencies caused by COVID-19.</p> <p>Does not apply to certain lines of insurance (e.g., life, annuity, health, or disability insurance; mortgage guaranty, financial guaranty, or other forms of insurance offering protection against investment risks; fidelity or surety bonds;</p>	Requires the coverage to indemnify the insured for losses related to the declared disaster emergency subject to the policy limits for loss of business or business interruption and subject to the maximum individual policy limits.	<p>Applies at 100% coverage levels to “small businesses” (i.e., qualifies as a small business under SBA regulations or has received or will receive funding through a program administered by the SBA).</p> <p>Provides that insureds not classified as small businesses will receive 75% of the policy limit for eligible claims for covered losses.</p>	Applies to active insurance policies with effective dates prior to March 6, 2020 and to insurance companies providing coverage against loss or damage to property (including the loss of use, loss of

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			credit insurance, vendors' single interest insurance or collateral protection insurance; title insurance; ocean marine insurance; insurance provided or guaranteed by a governmental entity; workers' compensation and employer's liability insurance; etc.).			occupancy, and business interruption in the state).
	HB 2372	Referred to Committee on Insurance (Apr. 3, 2020)	<p>Requires an insurance policy that insures against loss or damage to property, which includes the loss of use, loss of occupancy, and business interruption, in force on March 6, 2020 to be construed to include among the covered perils under the insurance policy coverage for business interruption due to global virus transmission or pandemic.</p> <p>Allows insurers to apply to the Department of Insurance for reimbursement for claims paid and provides guidance to the Department for how to make such reimbursements.</p>	Requires the coverage to indemnify the insured of an insurance policy, subject to the broadest or greatest limit and lowest deductible afforded to business interruption coverage under the insurance policy, for any loss of business or business interruption for the duration of the declaration of disaster emergency in Pennsylvania.	Applies to an insurance policy that is issued to an insured of an insurance policy if the insured has fewer than 100 eligible employees (i.e., a full-time employee who works a normal work week of 25+ hours).	Applies to insurance policies that were active on March 6, 2020.
South Carolina	SB 1188	Introduced; referred to the Committee on Banking and	Requires every policy of insurance in force insuring against loss or damage to property, notwithstanding its terms, that includes a loss of use, loss of occupancy, or business interruption to be construed to	Provides that the coverage required is subject to any monetary limits of the policy and any	Applies only to policies issued to insureds with 150 or fewer full-time equivalent employees in the state.	Applies to policies that are in force on the effective date

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		Insurance (Apr. 8, 2020)	<p>include, among the covered perils under the policy, coverage for loss of use, loss of occupancy, or business interruption, directly or indirectly resulting from COVID-19, including all mutated forms of the COVID-19 virus.</p> <p>Provides that no insurer may deny a claim for a loss of use, loss of occupancy, or business interruption, with respect to COVID-19, including, but not limited to, attempted insurer denials on account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 being a virus, even if the relevant insurance policy excludes losses resulting from viruses; • There being no physical damage to the property of the insured or to any other relevant property; or • Orders issued by any civil authority, or acts or decisions of a governmental entity. <p>Allows insurers to apply to the Department of Insurance for reimbursement for claims paid and provides guidance to the Department for how to make such reimbursements.</p>	maximum length of time set forth in the policy.		of the legislation or become effective prior to the date on which the South Carolina state of emergency declaration expires.
Wyoming	SF 1004 HB 1004	ENACTED (May 20, 2020)	<p>Establishes the temporary Wyoming business interruption stipend program to reimburse eligible businesses for interruption costs caused by required closures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Details the eligibility and operation requirements of the program.</p>		Applies to businesses in operation before March 15, 2020 that are independently owned and operated; headquartered in or with principle operations in Wyoming; and had employed fifty	Operates through December 30, 2020.

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					or fewer full-time employees as of March 31, 2020.	