

HAWDC Member Notice:  
**COVID-19 Update - Legislative Business Relief Efforts**



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**Monday, March 16, 2020**

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**Dear HAWDC Member:**

Given the current COVID-19 pandemic, HAWDC knows that you are all worried about your business and employees. HAWDC understands and we are in this together. We want you to know that we are here for you and are working for you. HAWDC is working with District government officials for you, and there are many efforts in motion. HAWDC is here to give you support, resources, and assistance during these difficult times.

**Legislative Efforts**

Tomorrow, the District Council is holding a hearing on an Emergency Bill that HAWDC helped to draft to provide financial relief for the hospitality industry, assistance to District employees, and help provide economic stimulus for the economy.

The draft legislation recommends:

- 90-day deferral of payment of real property taxes for hotels;
- Employees impacted by the virus shall be eligible for unemployment insurance, waiving the waiting period for receipt of benefits and the condition of the work-search requirement;
- Unemployment benefits paid due to the public health emergency shall not be charged to the experience rating account of employers;
- Employees are eligible to take medical leave under FMLA if they are ordered or recommended to quarantine by the Department of Health or other medical professional;

- Protections against stockpiling and price gouging;
- Electric, gas and water companies are barred from disconnecting services during the public health emergency;
- The Mayor may extend the validity of a license, registration, or permit that requires in-person renewal, including drivers licenses, vehicle registrations, and professional licenses.

**Current COVID-19 Cases as of Monday, March 16th:**

- District of Columbia - 17
- Maryland - 31
- Virginia - 45

For more information regarding the virus please go to <https://coronavirus.dc.gov> or the CDC's website by clicking [here](#).

HAWDC will continue to share additional updates as they become available.

Regards,  
Lisa

Lisa Abrams  
Vice President of Government Affairs  
Hotel Association of Washington, D.C.  
1225 New York Avenue, NW Suite 250  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 289-4448 Direct  
(202) 289-8869 Fax

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