

Legislative Brief



We're working to keep you informed in a world that changes by the minute. If you have anything you'd like to share, or if we can help you in any way, please email [Zach Donah](#) or [Larry Liuzzo](#).

Massachusetts Senate Passes ARPA Bill, Includes Forgiven PPP Loan Tax Exemption

Last night, the Massachusetts Senate passed a [\\$3.82 billion legislation](#) that includes, in part, language that would make forgiven 2021 Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans and other federal loans and state-specific grants nontaxable in Massachusetts for all recipients.

Like the bill that passed in the House last week, the [legislation consists](#) of state surplus money and a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds received earlier this year, leaving roughly \$2.75 billion in those funds to be allocated in the future.

Earlier this week, the MassCPAs' government affairs team and MassCPAs CPA Advocates contacted Massachusetts Senate leaders and senators to offer our support of the legislation, particularly Sections 94 and 95, which address the forgiven PPP loans and other federal and state loans and grants and reiterated the importance of passing the bill as soon as possible.

Thank you to our [MassCPAs CPA Advocates](#) for your assistance with our advocacy efforts and for contacting your State Senators to support the legislation!

The details of a final bill will be worked out and agreed upon between Senate and House members in the coming days. The Legislature set a goal weeks ago to have a final bill on Governor Baker's desk by Thanksgiving. We will keep you posted on any developments.

Congress Passes \$1.2 Trillion Infrastructure Bill; MA Expected to Receive \$12.5 Billion

Last week, the U.S. Congress passed the \$1.2 trillion [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) with bipartisan support, which will fund investments in roads, bridges, broadband internet access, community revitalization efforts and more throughout the country. As part of that legislation, Massachusetts is slated to receive about \$12.5 billion for various infrastructure needs across the state.

There are several tax provisions included in the legislation, a summary of which [can be found here](#).

Federal Vaccine Rules for Private Companies

Last week, the Biden Administration announced [federal vaccine rules](#) for companies with 100 or more employees.

Under the federal rule, companies must ensure their workforce is either fully vaccinated by January 4, 2022, or unvaccinated individuals must produce a negative COVID-19 test at least once a week and wear a mask while working. As part of this rule, employers must allow paid time off for workers to get vaccinated and provide sick leave for workers to recover from any side effects. Employers are not required to cover the cost for COVID-19 testing.

To read the official transcript of The White House Press Briefing on this subject, [click here](#).

As part of our member-only [CPE PLUS program](#), we are offering a free webinar [next Tuesday, November 16, from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.](#), **about the Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) and how firms/companies can best prepare**. The discussion will be led by Brian Garrett, of counsel at McLane Middleton, Professional Association and attendees will earn 1 CPE credit.

DOR & IRS Updates

- [IRS Provides Tax Inflation Adjustments for Tax Year 2022](#)
- [IRS Updates 2021 Child Tax Credit & Advances Child Tax Credit Payments FAQs](#)
- [IRS Announces 401\(k\) Limit Increases to \\$20,500](#)
- [IRS: Renew Preparer Tax Identification Numbers for 2022](#)
- [MA DOR Working Draft TIR: MA Tax Implications of Recent Federal Legislation](#)
- [IRS Updates Process for FAQs on New Tax Legislation and Addresses Reliance Concerns](#)
- [MA DOR Tax Filing Season FAQs](#)

Guidance for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

- [SBA PPP Direct Forgiveness Portal](#)
- [Updated PPP Loan Forgiveness Applications and Rules](#)
- [PPP FAQs](#)

Virtual Federal Tax Camp (12/8, 12/9 or 12/10)



Join Sue Smith, CPA, on December 8, 9 or 10 for our [Virtual Federal Tax Camp](#)!

Smith will provide the latest updates on the most important legislative and regulatory developments of the season, as well as major trends and changes in case law, with a view toward planning considerations.

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