

## **Legislature Passes FY 2020-2021 Supplemental Bill**

The legislature passed a supplemental bill directing funding to COVID-19 related initiatives. Senate Bill 748 was passed by the Senate 35-2 after extended negotiations with the administration. The bill was then sent to the House of Representatives, which approved of the bill overwhelmingly. It will now be sent to the Governor for her approval. You may find the bill and track its progress [HERE](#).

Included in the bill is funding for initiatives to support the nursing facility COVID-19 response including \$22.5 million for testing reimbursement and rapid response teams, \$3.33 million for hospitals to retain COVID-19 nursing home residents, \$15 million to MDHHS for testing and vaccination efforts. Below is more detailed information on the continued wage pass through and payments for CRC's.

### Continuation of \$2/Hour Wage Pass Through for Direct Care Workers

The supplemental budget bill passed by the Senate today includes funding to continue the \$2 per hour wage pass through for direct care workers for an additional three months through February 28, 2021. This is a continuation of the current program and will apply to the same direct care workers (RN, LPN, CNA, and respiratory therapists). We have requested further details on this funding from the Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and we will provide updates accordingly.

### CRC's receive \$200 per diem continuation for new COVID-19 admissions

Included in the supplemental budget bill is a continuation of the per diem rate for Care and Recover Centers' new admissions of COVID-19 positive residents. This \$200 per diem payment will continue under the bill through February of 2021.