

# What is in the new stimulus bill?

“On Monday, December 21, 2020, the Senate approved a massive emergency economic relief package, government funding, and tax cuts designed to counter the effects of the pandemic and stimulate economic growth. The legislation, introduced as a 5,593-page bill, was passed with a 92 to 6 vote following weeks of intense negotiations. Efforts to pass economic relief measures in the weeks leading to the presidential election had failed despite numerous attempts. But after the election, a bipartisan group of lawmakers teamed up and successfully negotiated for action to spur economic activity by helping businesses and consumers.” (Chambertoday)

However, The fate of the bill is yet to be known. After the many hours spent on this 5,593-page omnibus bill, President Trump criticized and trashed the legislation, calling for \$2,000 stimulus checks instead of the original \$600 stimulus checks. Whilst, The Presidents new call for greater stimulus might be helpful in the long term for our businesses and American families, it is highly unlikely that a new version of this already large bill would pass in both the house and senate since so many representatives on both sides of the aisle are against such heavy spending. Unless Trump signs the bill, the federal government will be shut down since it would no longer have the funds to operate from the last continuing resolution that was passed. In this event, congress could override a presidential veto or pocket veto with a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority in both chambers.

## Why Pass it?

This 5,593-page bill will be key to keeping the country functioning and helping to disperse the new wave of vaccines to American citizens. The last stimulus package passed was quite some time ago on March 27, 2020. This previous legislation, known as the CARES Act was effective, but since it was passed so long ago, its effect has been used up. This new bill has the power to help alleviate some of the country's suffering and if signed by the President, will do just that.

## What's Inside the Stimulus Package?

“As of now, the \$900 billion economic relief stimulus includes \$600 direct payments for qualifying adults and children Economic assistance for struggling small businesses, including more than \$284 billion for forgivable Paycheck Protection Program loans and \$15 billion for theaters, cultural institutions, and other venues

- \$300 per week for enhanced Unemployment Insurance benefits
- \$25 billion for rental assistance and an eviction moratorium extension
- \$82 billion for schools and colleges
- \$10 billion to help with childcare assistance
- \$13 billion in increased food assistance and child nutrition benefits
- \$7 billion to bolster broadband access across the country
- Support for coronavirus vaccine distribution, testing, and contact tracing efforts
- A tax credit "to support employers offering paid sick leave"

The bill extends aid to millions of households and businesses hammered by COVID. The aid is given through stimulus checks, enhanced federal unemployment benefits, and money for small businesses, childcare, and schools. It also covers the funding for free vaccination that will be distributed across states. Additionally, the package will repurpose \$429 billion in unused funding provided by the Cares Act for Emergency lending programs run by the Federal Reserve.” (Chambertoday)