

NHTF and Other Extender Bill Provisions Need New Legislative Vehicle

NLIHC's Memo to Members
July 23, 2010

With new Senator Carte Goodwin (D-WV) and Maine Republican Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins voting in the affirmative, the Senate finally passed H.R. 4213, extending unemployment insurance for the long-term jobless. The House quickly moved to pass the same version of the bill and the President signed the bill into law by mid-week.

While the extension of unemployment is good news, the bad news is that the rest of H.R. 4213, including \$1.065 billion for the National Housing Trust Fund and several provisions related to the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program, was stripped out. What remains of H.R. 4213 now needs a new legislative vehicle to move. Because the underlying bill is about extension of tax credits, the new vehicle must also be a tax bill and must have originated in the House. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) are considering several options.

Extension of the business-related tax credits that make up most of the remaining provisions are usually non-controversial. To offset the loss of tax revenue this year, the bill's sponsor, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Sander Levin (D-MI) proposed raising revenue by closing several tax loopholes. Senator Baucus already has had to modify several of these in order to gain the support of some Democrats. He is now working on further modifications that are expected to bring the Maine Senators on board.

The Senate is in session for two more weeks, while the House adjourns at the end of July. Advocates should call their Senators and urge that the Senate take up the extender bill with the funding for the NHTF and the LIHTC provisions immediately.