



Pension Fund Notes

Newsletter of the American Federation of Musicians and
Employers' Pension Fund

Pension Relief Bill Clears Two Key Hurdles

Read below for actions you can take right now!

Since last Friday, the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act of 2021 has passed two important milestones. First, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to pass the bill as part of the COVID-19 relief package, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Then, last night, [**the U.S. Senate parliamentarian ruled that the pension bill can be passed through the budget “reconciliation” process.**](#)

This positive ruling from the Senate parliamentarian was needed to ensure that the pension bill can stay in the COVID-19 relief package and be passed with a simple majority vote in the Senate. Here’s what is expected to come next:

- With this last procedural obstacle out of the way, the Senate is expected to vote on the overall relief package this week.
- Because some anticipated changes to the House’s bill will be made before it is voted on by the full Senate, the Senate-passed bill will need to return to the House for a final, hopefully affirmative, vote.
- The final COVID-19 relief bill will go to President Biden for his signature.

The signs are currently positive that the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act of 2021 has support in the Senate, but now is not the time to get complacent. This is the best chance we have ever had to secure federal relief for the AFM-EPF and other troubled multiemployer pension plans. As we have discussed previously, this bill is intended to address the severe financial challenges confronting so many multiemployer plans across the nation. As written, this legislation is intended to provide vital relief for decades, without the need for benefit reductions.

See below for steps you can take right now. If you have already taken action, thank you! **Please spread the word to your friends, family and colleagues.**

1. [Click here](#) to go to the AFM-EPF website for more information and suggestions about what to say to your elected officials.
2. Go to [Govtrack.us](#) and enter your state or zip code to identify your two U.S. Senators.
3. Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at **202-224-3121**. A switchboard operator will connect you with the Senate office you request. You will either reach a staff member or be asked to leave a voicemail.
4. [Click here](#) to email your U.S. Senators.

We also encourage you to call The White House comment line at **202-456-1111** and go to [WhiteHouse.gov/contact](#) to send a comment by email.

We understand that the AFM is conducting phone banking this week—calling AFM members in targeted states and urging them to contact their U.S. Senators now. If you would like to assist with the phone banking, [click here](#) for more information.

We will continue to keep you updated as the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act of 2021 advances through Congress.

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