
VIRGINIA STATE BUDGET

2020 Special Session I

Budget Bill - HB5005 (Enrolled)

Bill Order » Part 4: General Provisions » Effective Date » Item 4-14

Item 4-14

§ 4-14.00 EFFECTIVE DATE

This act is effective ~~on July 1, 2020~~ *on its passage as provided in § 1-214, Code of Virginia.*

ADDITIONAL ENACTMENTS

23. That the authority and responsibilities of the Secretary of Technology included in the Code of Virginia shall be executed by the Secretary of Administration and the Secretary of Commerce and Trade pursuant to Item 66 and Item 111 of this act. Any authority or responsibilities of the Secretary of Technology not referenced in Item 66 and Item 111 of this act shall be executed by either the Secretary of Administration or the Secretary of Commerce and Trade as determined by the Governor.

34. That any authority or responsibilities of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Investment Authority and the Center for Innovative Technology not referenced in Item 135 of this Act shall be executed by the Virginia Innovation Partnership Authority and the non-profit entity established in legislation to be considered by the 2020 General Assembly.

45. That § 16.1-69.48:2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 16.1-69.48:2. Fees for services of district court judges and clerks and magistrates in civil cases.

Fees in civil cases for services performed by the judges or clerks of general district courts or magistrates in the event any such services are performed by magistrates in civil cases shall be as provided in this section, and, unless otherwise provided, shall be included in the taxed costs and shall not be refundable, except in case of error or as herein provided.

For all court and magistrate services in each distress, detinue, interrogatory summons, unlawful detainer, civil warrant, notice of motion, garnishment, attachment issued, or other civil proceeding, the fee shall be ~~\$30~~ \$36. No such fee shall be collected (i) in any tax case instituted by any county, city or town or (ii) in any case instituted by a school board for collection of overdue book rental fees. Of the fees collected under this section, \$10 of each such fee collected shall be apportioned to the Courts Technology Fund established under § 17.1-132.

The judge or clerk shall collect the foregoing fee at the time of issuing process. Any magistrate or other issuing officer shall collect the foregoing fee at the time of issuing process, and shall remit the entire fee promptly to the court to which such process is returnable, or to its clerk. When no service of process is had on a defendant named in any civil process other than a notice of motion for judgment, such process may be reissued once by the court or clerk at the court's direction by changing the return day of such process, for which service by the court or clerk there shall be no charge; however, reissuance of such process shall be within three months after the original return day.

The clerk of any district court may charge a fee for making a copy of any paper of record to go out of his office

which is not otherwise specifically provided for. The amount of this fee shall be set in the discretion of the clerk but shall not exceed \$1 for the first two pages and \$.50 for each page thereafter.

The fees prescribed in this section shall be the only fees charged in civil cases for services performed by such judges and clerks, and when the services referred to herein are performed by magistrates such fees shall be the only fees charged by such magistrates for the prescribed services.

56. a. In anticipation of the collection of taxes and revenues of the Commonwealth, for fiscal years 2021 and 2022, the Treasury Board is hereby authorized, by and with the consent of the Governor, to sell and issue, pursuant to Article X, Section 9 (a)(2) of the Constitution of Virginia, as the case may be, at one time or from time to time, tax and revenue anticipation notes ("9(a)(2) Notes") of the Commonwealth, including 9(a)(2) Notes issued as commercial paper. The proceeds of such 9(a)(2) Notes, excluding amounts needed to fund issuance costs, reserve funds, and other financing expenses, shall be used exclusively for the purpose of providing funds, together with any other available funds, to help manage the cash flow impact of actual or potential reductions of tax and other revenues or increases in expenses related to or resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, and including the payment of operating expenses incurred or to be incurred in anticipation of the collection of taxes and revenues by the Commonwealth.

b. In addition, in anticipation of the collection of taxes and revenues of the Commonwealth, and its counties, cities and towns, for fiscal years 2021 and 2022, the Treasury Board is hereby authorized, by and with the consent of the Governor, to sell and issue, pursuant to Article X, Section 9 (d) of the Constitution of Virginia, as the case may be, at one time or from time to time, tax and revenue anticipation notes of the Commonwealth ("9(d) Notes" and together with the 9(a)(2) Notes authorized in the foregoing paragraph, "Notes")), including 9(d) Notes issued as commercial paper. The proceeds of such 9(d) Notes, excluding amounts needed to fund issuance costs, reserve funds, and other financing expenses, shall be used exclusively for the purpose of providing funds, together with any other available funds, to help manage the cash flow impact of actual or potential reductions of tax and other revenues or increases in expenses related to or resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, and including the payment of operating expenses incurred or to be incurred in anticipation of the collection of taxes and revenues by the Commonwealth and its counties, cities and towns, and to purchase or acquire similar notes issued by, or otherwise to assist, cities, counties and towns of the Commonwealth for such purpose. The Governor is authorized to select the counties, cities and towns to participate in the undertakings authorized hereunder and direct the distribution of 9(d) Note proceeds to the particular counties, cities and town, and shall, after consultation with all interested parties, develop a guidance document governing eligibility and priority criteria.

c. The Treasury Board is authorized to issue Notes hereunder in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$500,000,000 for the benefit of the Commonwealth and in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$250,000,000 for the benefit of counties, cities and towns, plus in either case amounts needed to fund issuance costs, reserve funds, capitalized interest, and other financing expenses.

d. 9(a)(2) Notes shall mature at such time or times within twelve months from their date or dates, and 9(d) Notes shall mature at such time or times not exceeding two years from their date or dates.

e. The full faith and credit of the Commonwealth shall be pledged to any 9(a)(2) Notes issued under the provisions of this Item. 9(d) Notes issued under the provisions of this item shall not be deemed to constitute a debt of the Commonwealth of Virginia or a pledge of the full faith and credit of the Commonwealth, but such obligations shall be payable solely, subject to appropriation by the General Assembly, from amounts appropriated from time to time by the General Assembly and from amounts paid by counties, cities and towns that issue bonds, notes or obligations with respect to this Item. There is hereby appropriated a sum sufficient to the Treasury Board for the purpose of paying the debt service on the Notes.

f. The Virginia Resources Authority is authorized to purchase and acquire through proceeds of 9(d) Notes bonds, notes or obligations of counties, cities and towns of the Commonwealth issued for the purposes authorized hereunder and establish the interest rates and repayment terms of such bonds, notes or obligations in accordance with a memorandum of agreement with the Treasury Board and the Authority shall recover its reasonable costs and expenses for doing so from the proceeds of such Notes and for its role in the administration and management of such proceeds.

g. Each county, city, and town is hereby authorized to issue bonds, notes or obligations for the purposes set forth in paragraph (b) above. The authority of any county, city, and town to contract and to issue bonds, notes or obligations pursuant to such authorization is in addition to any existing authority to contract and issue bonds, notes or obligations, anything in the laws of the Commonwealth, including any local charter, to the contrary notwithstanding. The provisions of Virginia Code § 15.2-2659 and § 62.1-216.1 shall apply, mutatis mutandis, with respect to any bond, note or obligation issued by a county, city or town hereunder.

h. The proceeds, including any premium, of the Notes shall be deposited in a special account in the state treasury and, together with the investment income thereon, shall be disbursed by the State Treasurer from time to time for paying all or any part of the expenses or undertakings as set forth in paragraphs (a) and (b) above. The Notes shall be dated and may be made redeemable before their maturity or maturities at such price or prices or within such price parameters, all as may be determined by the Treasury Board, by and with the consent of the Governor, and shall be in such form, shall bear interest at such rate or rates, either at fixed rates or at rates established by formula or other method, and may contain such other provisions, all as determined by the Treasury Board or, when authorized by the Treasury Board, the State Treasurer. The principal of and premium, if any, and the interest on Notes shall be payable in lawful money of the United States of America. Notes may be certificated or uncertificated as determined by the Treasury Board. The Treasury Board may contract for services of such registrars, transfer agents, or other authenticating agents as it deems appropriate to maintain a record of the persons entitled to the Notes. Notes issued in certificated form may be issued under a system of book entry for recording the ownership and transfer of ownership of rights to receive payments on the Notes. The Treasury Board shall fix the authorized denomination or denominations of the Notes and the place or places of payment of certificated Notes, which may be at the Office of the State Treasurer or at any bank or trust company within or without the Commonwealth. The Treasury Board may sell Notes in such manner, by competitive bidding, negotiated sale, or private placement with private lenders or governmental agencies, and for such price or within such price parameters as it may determine, by and with the consent of the Governor, to be in the best interest of the Commonwealth. In the discretion of the Treasury Board, Notes may be issued at one time or from time to time. Certificated Notes shall be signed on behalf of the Commonwealth by the Governor and by the State Treasurer, or shall bear their facsimile signatures, and shall bear the lesser seal of the Commonwealth or a facsimile thereof. If the Notes bear the facsimile signature of the State Treasurer, they shall be signed by such administrative assistant as the State Treasurer shall determine or by such registrar or paying agent as may be designated to sign them by the Treasury Board. If any officer whose signature or facsimile signature appears on any Notes ceases to be such officer before delivery, such signature or facsimile signature shall nevertheless be valid and sufficient for all purposes the same as if such officer had remained in office until such delivery, and any Note may bear the facsimile signature of, or may be signed by, such persons as at the actual time of execution are the proper officers to sign such Note, although at the date of such Note, such persons may not have been such officers.

i. The Treasury Board is authorized to create debt service and sinking funds for the payments of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the Notes and other funds or reserves desirable or required by any purchaser. Pending the application of the proceeds of the Notes to the purpose for which they have been authorized and the application of funds set aside for the purpose to the payment of Notes, they may be invested by the State Treasurer in securities that are legal investments under the laws of the

Commonwealth for public funds and sinking funds, as the case may be. Whenever the State Treasurer receives interest from the investment of the proceeds of Notes, such interest shall become a part of the principal of the Notes and shall be used in the same manner as required for principal of the Notes.

7.a. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon the declaration by the Governor of a state of emergency pursuant to § 44-146.17, Code of Virginia, in response to a communicable disease of public health threat as defined in § 44-146.16, Code of Virginia, electric companies subject to regulation of the State Corporation Commission ("Commission"), natural gas suppliers subject to the regulation of the Commission, electric and gas municipal utilities, and water suppliers and wastewater service providers, subject to the regulation of Commission or constituting a municipal utility ("utilities") are prohibited from disconnecting service to residential customers for non-payment of bills or fees until the Governor determines that the economic and public health conditions have improved such that the prohibition does not need to be in place, or until at least 60 days after such declared state of emergency ends, whichever is sooner. "Municipal utility" means a utility providing electric, gas, or water or wastewater service that is owned or operated by a city, county, town, authority, or other political subdivision of the Commonwealth. The utilities shall notify all customers who are at least 30 days in arrears of this utility disconnection moratorium, which may be by bill insert or bill notice.

b. No more than 60 days after the enactment of this act, the utilities shall notify all customers who are at least 30 days in arrears of the COVID-19 Relief Repayment Plan (Repayment Plan), which may be by bill insert or bill notice, such notice shall include eligibility, billing information, applicable financial assistance resources, and contact information where customers may file an initial complaint on Repayment Plan related disputes. All utilities within 60 days after the enactment of this act must offer customers a Repayment Plan for past due accounts while the universal prohibition on service disconnections is in effect that includes, at minimum, the following provisions:

1. The Repayment Plan shall not require any new deposits, down payments, fees, late fees, interest charges, or penalties, nor shall such plan accrue any fees, interest, or penalties, including prepayment penalties;

2. The Repayment Plan shall amortize the repayment of a customer's utility debt over a minimum period of 6 months and up to 24 months for each utility. The utility will work with the customer to establish a Repayment Plan that meets the requirements of this clause 7.b. and that the customer determines is sustainable and affordable for them. A customer may satisfy the Repayment Plan in part or in full at any time; and

3. The utilities shall not apply eligibility criteria, such as installment plan history. However, the utilities may require the customer to attest to the utility or to a third party chosen by the utility that the customer has experienced a financial hardship resulting directly or indirectly from the public health emergency or that they have experienced a hardship to pay during the public health emergency.

4. If a utility reports to a consumer reporting agency or debt collector regarding a consumer who is on a Repayment Plan, the utility shall report the account as "current" in accordance with the Public Law 116-136: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. If the provisions of Public Law 116-136: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act expire prior to the end of the universal moratorium established in clause 7.a., the utility may only resume reporting any default on the Repayment Plan at the end of the universal moratorium established in clause 7.a.

5. However, no utility that has received an order exempting it from the provisions of this clause 7.a. shall disconnect from service a customer who is making timely payments under the Repayment Plan at the time of the order and until such time as a customer ceases to make timely payments under the Repayment Plan. A utility that has received an order exempting it from the provisions of this clause 7.a. shall attempt to establish a Repayment Plan with its customers prior to any disconnection of service.

c. Nothing herein shall limit or prevent the utilities or the residential customers from applying or seeking debt

relief or mitigation from any available resource, from entering into another payment plan offered by the utility, or from renegotiating the terms of the Repayment Plan.

d. In accordance with the provisions of Item 479.10, paragraph B.5. of this act, utilities shall use any funding allocated from the federal Coronavirus Relief Funds of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (P.L. 116-136) to provide direct subsidy payments on behalf of customers whose accounts are over 30 days in arrears, provided such use meets eligibility requirements pursuant to United States Department of the Treasury guidance. In applying these funds to customer accounts, utilities shall prioritize providing financial assistance to customers who are over 60 days in arrears prior to using the funds to assist customers with accounts 31 to 60 days in arrears. To the extent possible, utilities shall use available funding to cover one-hundred percent of the customer's arrearage.

In addition to the funds provided in Item 479.10, paragraph B.2. of this act, where applicable, utilities must accept financial assistance from other utility assistance programs funded with federal Coronavirus Relief Funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (P.L. 116-136) for customers who are at least 30 days in arrears. To the extent possible, utilities must direct customers in writing to these resources when establishing a Repayment Plan.

e. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this clause 7 or any other provision of law, if a utility subject to regulation of the Commission has accounts receivable arrearages for Virginia customers that exceed 2% of an investor-owned electric utility's, or 1% of any other utility's, annual Virginia jurisdictional operating revenues, then the utility may obtain relief from the moratorium established in clause 7.a. by filing an informational letter notice with the clerk of the Commission, stating such facts to demonstrate the exceedance and contemporaneously tendering associated workpapers to the staff of the Commission. The Commission staff shall verify the information as filed by the utility and shall file a verification letter with the Clerk of the Commission. The Commission, upon receipt of a favorable verification letter, shall issue a final order within five days. Upon issuance of an order, a utility shall thereafter be exempt from the moratorium provisions of this clause 7.a.

f. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this clause 7 or any other provision of law, if a utility subject to this clause 7 but not subject to regulation of the Commission has accounts receivable arrearages that exceed 1% of the utility's annual operating revenues, then the utility may obtain relief from the moratorium established in clause 7.a. if (i) the utility provides a written analysis stating such facts to demonstrate the exceedance to staff of the governing body, (ii) the utility contemporaneously makes available for public inspection associated workpapers verifying such facts to staff of the governing body, and (iii) the governing body verifies the exceedance, provides public notice, takes public comment on, and votes to approve that the exceedance is accurate in an open public meeting. In the event of an affirmative vote of the utility's governing body, the utility shall thereafter be exempt from the moratorium provisions of this clause 7.a.

g. The Commission shall allow for the timely recovery of bad debt obligations, reasonable late payment fees suspended, and prudently incurred implementation costs resulting from a Repayment Plan for electric, gas, water, or wastewater utilities, including through a rate adjustment clause or through base rates, however, the Commission shall exclude from recovery all costs associated with any jurisdictional customer balances forgiven by a Phase II utility pursuant to paragraph j. below. The Commission may apply any applicable earnings test in the Commission rules governing utility rate applications and annual informational filings when assessing the recovery of such costs. The Commission shall also require the utilities subject to regulation by the Commission to submit information on the status of customer accounts, including (a) the number and value of outstanding aged account balances, categorized by customer type; (b) the number and value of associated collections from customers, categorized by customer type; (c) the number and value of associated additions to aged accounts receivable balances, categorized by customer type; (d) the number and value of aged accounts receivable balances, net of collections and additions; (e) the number, total value, and average debt of accounts that are participating in the Repayment Plan, or another repayment plan as set forth by the utility; (f) the number of accounts removed from the Repayment Plan, or another repayment plan as set forth by the utility, categorized by reason; (g) the amount of

and average debt still remaining for customer accounts removed from the Repayment Plan or another repayment plan as set forth by the utility; (h) the carrying costs of the debt for accounts participating in a repayment plan and any associated administrative costs incurred; (i) the number, total value, and average debt of customer accounts receiving direct assistance by the funds provided in Item 479.10, paragraph B.2. of this act, categorized by days in arrears and customer account type; (j) the cumulative level of customer arrearages by locality; and (k) any cost recorded as regular asset authorized by that certain order of the Commission in Case Number PUR-2020-00074. The Commission shall provide the Chairs of the House Committees on Labor and Commerce and Appropriations, the Senate Committees on Commerce and Labor and Finance and Appropriations, and the Secretary of Commerce and Trade an aggregated anonymized report by utility containing such compiled information by December 31, 2020, within 90 days of the expiration of the universal prohibition established in clause 7.a., and annually, on or before December 31st, thereafter for the following two years. The report due on December 31, 2020 shall cover the period from March 16, 2020 through December 15, 2020. The report due within 90 days of the end of the universal prohibition established in clause 7.a. shall cover the period from December 16, 2020 to the end of the universal prohibition established in clause 7.a. Annual reports shall cover the period from the end of the universal prohibition established in clause 7.a. to December 16th of the year the report is due.

h. Utilities not subject to regulation by the Commission shall submit information on the status of customer accounts to the Commission on Local Government managed by the Department of Housing and Community Development, including (a) the number and value of accounts that are at least 30 days in arrears; (b) the number and value of accounts that are at least 60 days in arrears; (c) the number, total value, and average debt of accounts that are participating in the Repayment Plan, or another repayment plan as set forth by the utility; (d) the number of accounts removed from the Repayment Plan, or another repayment plan as set forth by the utility, categorized by reason; (e) the amount of and average debt still remaining for accounts removed from the Repayment Plan or another repayment plan as set forth by the utility; (f) the carrying costs of the debt for accounts participating in a repayment plan and any associated administrative costs incurred; (g) the number, total value, and average debt of accounts offset by the funds provided in Item 479.10, paragraph B.2. of this act and local programs using Coronavirus Relief Funds, categorized by days in arrears, customer account type, and Coronavirus Relief Fund type; and, (h) the cumulative level of customer arrearages by locality. The Commission on Local Government shall provide the Chairs of the House Committees on Labor and Commerce and Appropriations, the Senate Committees on Commerce and Labor and Finance and Appropriations, and the Secretary of Commerce and Trade an aggregated anonymized report by utility containing such compiled information by December 31, 2020, within 90 days of the expiration of the universal prohibition established in clause 7.a., and annually, on or before December 31st, thereafter for the following two years. The report due on December 31, 2020 shall cover the period from March 16, 2020 through December 15, 2020. The report due within 90 days of the end of the universal prohibition established in clause 7.a. shall cover the period from December 16, 2020 to the end of the universal prohibition established in clause 7.a. Annual reports shall cover the period from the end of the universal prohibition established in clause 7.a. to December 16th of the year the report is due.

i. The reports required in paragraphs g. and h. of this clause 7 are not eligible for deferral or delay as permitted under Item 4-8.01, a.4.a. of this act.

j. Within 60 days after the enactment of this act, a Phase II Utility shall forgive all such utility's jurisdictional customer balances more than 30 days in arrears as of September 30, 2020.

1. In the utility's 2021 triennial review, any forgiven amounts shall be excluded from the utility's cost of service for purposes of determining any test period earnings and determining any future rates of the utility. In determining any customer bill credits, in the utility's 2021 triennial review, the Commission shall first offset any forgiven amounts against the total earnings for the 2017 through 2020 test periods that are determined to be above the utility's authorized earnings band. Such offset shall be made prior to any offset to customer bill credits by customer credit reinvestment offsets.

2. Each Phase II Utility shall, no later than December 31, 2020, submit a report to the Governor, the Chairs of the

House Committees on Labor and Commerce and Appropriations, and the Senate Committees on Commerce and Labor and Finance and Appropriations, and the Chair of the Commission on Electric Utility Regulation, detailing all actions by it pursuant to this act to forgive customer balances.

8.a. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon the declaration by the Governor of a state of emergency pursuant to § 44-146.17 of the Code of Virginia in response to a communicable disease of public health threat as defined in § 44-146.16 of the Code of Virginia, no landlord shall terminate a residential tenancy, or take any action to obtain possession of a dwelling unit, for non-payment of rent through December 31, 2020, unless such eligible tenant refuses to apply for Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program assistance and refuses to cooperate with the landlord in applying for rental assistance through the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program. Such landlords and tenants must also comply with the following:

1. For an owner who owns more than four rental dwelling units or more than a 10 percent interest in more than four rental dwelling units, whether individually or through a business entity, in the Commonwealth, if rent is unpaid when due, the landlord shall serve upon the tenant, pursuant to § 55.1-1202, a written notice informing the tenant of the total amount due and owed. The written notice shall also inform the tenant that if the tenant provides to the landlord a signed statement certifying that the tenant has experienced additional expenses or a loss of income due to the declared state of emergency, the tenant may, but is not required to, enter into a payment plan under which the tenant shall be required to pay the total amount due and owed in equal monthly installments over a period of the lesser of six months or the time remaining under the rental agreement. The total amount due and owed under a payment plan shall not include any late fees, and no late fees shall be assessed during any time period in which a tenant is making timely payments under a payment plan. If the tenant fails to pay in full, enter into a written payment plan with the landlord, or pay any installment required by the plan, the landlord may not terminate the tenancy nor take any action to obtain possession of the dwelling unit until the provisions of subsection 8.b. are effectuated on January 1, 2021. However, during the time the provisions of this subsection 8.a. are in effect, the landlord may proceed to obtain possession of the premises as provided in § 55.1-1251 in the event that the tenant refuses to apply for Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program assistance and refuses to cooperate with the landlord in applying for rental assistance through the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program, as described in subsection 8.a.2. below. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a tenant from availing himself of any other rights or remedies available to him under the law, nor shall the tenant's eligibility to participate or participation in any rent relief program offered by a nonprofit organization or under the provisions of any federal, state, or local law, regulation, or action prohibit the tenant from taking advantage of the provisions of this subsection.

2. If rent is unpaid when due, or if a payment under the terms of a payment plan is unpaid when due, the landlord shall serve upon the tenant, pursuant to § 55.1-1202, a written notice informing the tenant of the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program and information on how to reach 2-1-1 Virginia to determine any additional federal, state, and local rent relief programs. The written notice shall also inform the tenant that the owner, landlord, or owner's licensed agent will apply for rental assistance with the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program on behalf of the tenant, or the landlord will cooperate with the tenant's application for rental assistance with the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program, or with another federal, state, or local rent relief program, by providing required documentation for such application, including the W-9 IRS form and any supporting affidavit. If the tenant refuses to apply for Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program assistance and refuses to cooperate with the landlord in applying for rental assistance through the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program, the landlord may proceed to obtain possession of the premises as provided in § 55.1-1251 for non-payment of rent, during such time the provisions of 8.a. are in effect. Before January 1, 2021, a landlord may not terminate a tenancy nor take action to obtain possession of a dwelling unit based solely on failure to receive written approval from the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program or any other federal, state, or local rent relief program. After the provisions of subsection 8.b. are effectuated on January 1, 2021, the landlord may terminate the tenancy or take action to obtain possession of the dwelling unit based on failure to receive written approval from the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program or any other federal, state, or local rent relief program, but only in compliance with the applicable provisions of subsection 8.b.3. For any application by the owner, landlord, owner's licensed agent, or

the tenant to the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program or any other federal, state, or local rent relief program, the administrator of the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program or the administrator of any other federal, state, or local rent relief program shall work diligently to process such application within fourteen days of submission of such application.

b. Beginning January 1, 2021, notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon the declaration by the Governor of a state of emergency pursuant to § 44-146.17 of the Code of Virginia in response to a communicable disease of public health threat as defined in § 44-146.16 of the Code of Virginia, no landlord shall terminate a residential tenancy, or take any action to obtain possession of a dwelling unit, for non-payment of rent due to lost income or additional expenses resulting from the declared state of emergency until such time the declared state of emergency ends, except as follows:

1. For an owner who owns four or fewer rental dwelling units in the Commonwealth, if rent is unpaid when due and the tenant fails to pay rent within fourteen days after written notice is served on him, pursuant to § 55.1-1202, notifying the tenant of his nonpayment and of the landlord's intention to obtain possession of the premises if the rent is not paid within the fourteen-day period, the landlord may proceed to obtain possession of the premises as provided in § 55.1-1251, provided that the landlord also complies with subsection 3. below.

2. For an owner who owns more than four rental dwelling units or more than a 10 percent interest in more than four rental dwelling units, whether individually or through a business entity, in the Commonwealth, if rent is unpaid when due, the landlord shall serve upon the tenant, pursuant to § 55.1-1202, a written notice informing the tenant of the total amount due and owed. The written notice shall also inform the tenant that if the tenant provides to the landlord a signed statement certifying that the tenant has experienced additional expenses or a loss of income due to the declared state of emergency, the tenant may, but is not required to, enter into a payment plan under which the tenant shall be required to pay the total amount due and owed in equal monthly installments over a period of the lesser of six months or the time remaining under the rental agreement. The total amount due and owed under a payment plan shall not include any late fees, and no late fees shall be assessed during any time period in which a tenant is making timely payments under a payment plan. The written notice shall also inform the tenant that if the tenant fails to either pay the total amount due and owed or enter into the payment plan offered, or an alternative payment arrangement acceptable to the landlord, within fourteen days of receiving the written notice from the landlord, the landlord may proceed to obtain possession of the premises as provided in § 55.1-1251. If the tenant fails to pay in full or enter into a written payment plan with the landlord within fourteen days of when the notice is served on him, the landlord may proceed to obtain possession of the premises as provided in § 55.1-1251, provided that the landlord also complies with subsection 3. below. If the tenant enters into a payment plan and, after the plan becomes effective, fails to pay any installment required by the plan within fourteen days of its due date, the landlord may proceed to obtain possession of the premises as provided in § 55.1-1251, provided that he has sent the tenant a new notice, pursuant to § 55.1-1202, advising the tenant of the landlord's intention to obtain possession of the premises unless the tenant pays the total amount due and owed as stated on the notice within fourteen days of receipt and provided that the landlord complies with subsection 3. below. The option of entering into a payment plan or alternative payment arrangement pursuant to this subdivision may only be utilized once during the time period of the rental agreement. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a tenant from availing himself of any other rights or remedies available to him under the law, nor shall the tenant's eligibility to participate or participation in any rent relief program offered by a nonprofit organization or under the provisions of any federal, state, or local law, regulation, or action prohibit the tenant from taking advantage of the provisions of this subsection.

3. If rent is unpaid when due, or if a payment under the terms of a payment plan is unpaid when due, the landlord shall serve upon the tenant, pursuant to § 55.1-1202, a written notice informing the tenant of the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program and information on how to reach 2-1-1 Virginia to determine any additional federal, state, and local rent relief programs. The written notice shall also inform the tenant that the owner, landlord, or owner's licensed agent will apply for rental assistance with the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program on behalf of the tenant, or the landlord will cooperate with the tenant's application for rental assistance with the

Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program, or with another federal, state, or local rent relief program, by providing required documentation for such application, including the W-9 IRS form and any supporting affidavit. Unless the tenant has communicated to the landlord that they are applying for rental assistance funds, the landlord shall apply for rental assistance on behalf of the tenant to the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief program, or another federal, state, or local rental assistance program no later than fourteen days from the time the written notice is served. If the tenant refuses to apply for rental assistance and refuses to cooperate with the landlord in applying for rental assistance through the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program, or with another federal, state, or local rent relief program, the landlord may take action to obtain possession of a dwelling unit for non-payment of rent as provided in § 55.1-1251. If the landlord or the tenant does not receive written approval from the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program or any other federal, state, or local rent relief program within forty-five days of when the application for assistance is made by the tenant or the landlord, the landlord may proceed to obtain possession of the premises as provided in § 55.1-1251. For any subsequent application by the owner, landlord, owner's licensed agent, or the tenant to the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program or any other federal, state, or local rent relief program, the administrator of the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program or the administrator of any other federal, state, or local rent relief program shall work diligently to process such application within fourteen days of submission of such application. If the landlord or tenant does not receive written approval from the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief program or any other federal, state, or local rent relief program within fourteen days of submission of the subsequent application, the landlord may proceed to obtain possession of the premises as provided in § 55.1-1251. If the tenant does not qualify for the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program or any other federal, or state rent relief program, or there are no longer funds available from these sources, then the provisions of this subsection, 8.b.3. do not apply.

c. If a landlord reports to a consumer reporting agency or debt collector regarding a tenant who is participating in the repayment plan or receiving assistance from a federal, state, or local rent relief program, the landlord shall report the account as "current" in accordance with the Public Law 116-136: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

d. If a tenant is complying with a written payment plan with the landlord or has resolved any non-payment of rent, the landlord cannot take any action to obtain possession of a dwelling unit for non-payment of rent.

e. Nothing in this section relieves either the landlord or the tenant from their obligations to maintain the dwelling as those obligations are set forth in Article 2 and Article 3 of Chapter 12 of Title 55.1.

f. Nothing in this section shall void any judgment for possession validly obtained by a landlord prior to the effective date of this section; however, the court shall not issue a writ of execution thereunder, following the effective date, unless it complies with the provisions of this Section 8.

69. That the provisions of the first, second, third, fourth, ~~and fifth~~ sixth, seventh, and eighth enactments of this act shall expire at midnight on June 30, 2022.

710. That the provisions of the ~~fourth~~ fifth enactment of this act shall have no expiration date.