

State of Emergency Ends June 30
—Utility Service Disconnects May Resume Aug. 29—

Gov. Northam's state of emergency, declared on May 26, 2020, due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, ended on June 30, 2021, at 11:59 pm.

The 2021 General Assembly included language in the Appropriations Act that prohibited utility service disconnections for non-payment of utility bills until 60 days after the state of emergency ends. Therefore, all utility service disconnections may resume on August 29, 2021. In addition, normal late fees, interest charges, and penalties for nonpayment also may resume.

Localities and authorities may wish to begin notifying utility customers that the state of emergency has expired, that normal business practices are resuming, and that nonpayment for utility service may result in service disconnections beginning August 29.

Of course, localities and authorities are likely to continue offering payment plans to help customers meet past-due bills, just as utilities typically did pre-pandemic. The State's regulation of payment plan terms and conditions also ended with the state of emergency.