

1 Introduced by Committee on Government Operations

2 Date:

3 Subject: Municipal and county government; deadlines for municipal

4 corporations and other political subdivisions; extension; COVID-19

5 response

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to authorize the

7 Governor and municipal corporations to extend deadlines applicable to

8 municipal corporations and regional planning commissions during the COVID-

9 19 response.

10 An act relating to extending applicable deadlines for municipal corporations
11 and regional planning commissions in response to COVID-19

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. EXTENSION OF DEADLINES APPLICABLE TO MUNICIPAL

14 CORPORATIONS AND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS;

15 CONTINUED VALIDITY OF LICENSES AND PLANS

16 (a) During a declared state of emergency under 20 V.S.A. chapter 1 due to

17 COVID-19, the Governor may authorize State agencies to extend any deadline

18 applicable to municipal corporations or regional planning commissions. A

19 deadline established by statute shall not be extended to more than 90 days after

20 the date that the declared state of emergency ends. Any expiring license,

1 permt, program, or plan issued to a municipal corporation or regional planning
2 commission that is due to a State agency for renewal or review shall remain
3 valid for 90 days after the date that the declared state of emergency ends.

4 (b) During a declared state of emergency under 20 V.S.A. chapter 1 due to
5 COVID-19, a municipal corporation shall be permitted to extend any deadline
6 applicable to municipal corporations, provided that the deadline does not relate
7 to a State license, permit, program, or plan subject to subsection (a) of this
8 section. A municipal corporation may extend or waive deadlines applicable to
9 licenses, permits, programs, or plans issued by a municipal corporation. Any
10 expiring license, permit, program, or plan issued by a municipal corporation
11 that is due to the municipal corporation for renewal or review shall remain
12 valid for 90 days after the date that the declared state of emergency ends.

13 Sec. 2. TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON DISCONNECTIONS FROM
14 PUBLIC DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

15 (a) Notwithstanding 24 V.S.A. chapter 129, a municipality shall be
16 prohibited from disconnecting a person from water or sewer services during a
17 declared state of emergency under 20 V.S.A. chapter 1 due to COVID-19.

18 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a person who is
19 permitted as a public water system pursuant to 10 V.S.A. chapter 56 and who
20 provides another person water as a part of the operation of that public water
21 system shall be prohibited from disconnecting any person from the public

1 water system during a declared state of emergency under 20 V.S.A. chapter 1
2 due to COVID-19.

3 (c) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a company
4 engaged in the collecting, sale, and distribution of water for domestic,
5 industrial, business, or fire protection purposes that is regulated by the Public
6 Utility Commission under 30 V.S.A. § 203(3) shall be prohibited from
7 disconnecting any person from services during a declared state of emergency
8 under 20 V.S.A. chapter 1 due to COVID-19.

9 (d) A violation of subsection (a) or (b) of this section may be enforced by
10 the Agency of Natural Resources pursuant to 10 V.S.A. chapter 201. A
11 violation of subsection (c) of this section may be enforced by the Public Utility
12 Commission under 30 V.S.A. § 30.

13 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

14 This act shall take effect on passage.