OFFERED IN THE HOUSE
TO: HCS CSSB 241(RLS)

Page 1, line 8, following "deadlines;":
Insert "tolling deadlines for action by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska;
relating to disconnection of utility service for nonpayment; relating to power cost
equalization; relating to regulatory assets of a utility; relating to evictions;"

Page 10, following line 17:
Insert new bill sections to read:

"* Sec. 14. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

TOLLING DEADLINES FOR ACTION BY THE REGULATORY COMMISSION
OF ALASKA DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK. Notwithstanding a contrary
 provision of AS 42, including a provision of AS 42.05 or AS 42.08, during the novel
coronavirus disease (COVID-19) public health disaster emergency declared by the governor
on March 11, 2020, as extended by sec. 2 of this Act, all statutory and regulatory deadlines for
action by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska are tolled and failure by the Regulatory
Commission of Alaska to act on a filing does not constitute approval or dismissal by the
commission. This section does not apply to a statutory or regulatory deadline extended by the
commission before March 11, 2020, for good cause under AS 42.05.175(f).

* Sec. 15. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

MORATORIUM ON DISCONNECTION OF RESIDENTIAL UTILITY SERVICE.
(a) During the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) public health disaster emergency
declared by the governor on March 11, 2020, as extended by sec. 2 of this Act, a public utility

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as defined in AS 42.05.990 may not disconnect for nonpayment the residential utility service
of a person experiencing financial hardship related to the COVID-19 public health disaster
emergency. A public utility shall make reasonable efforts to reconnect utility service to a
dwelling that is occupied by a person experiencing financial hardship related to the COVID-
19 public health disaster emergency and that is disconnected for nonpayment on or after
(b) A person seeking protection under (a) of this section shall, before the emergency
declaration expires,
(1) provide to the public utility a signed statement, sworn under penalty of
perjury, that the person is experiencing financial hardship related to the COVID-19 public
health disaster emergency; and
(2) negotiate and agree to a deferred payment arrangement with the utility.
(c) This section does not relieve a public utility customer of the obligation to pay for
utility service or restrict a public utility's ability to recover an amount due.
(d) A utility shall offer a person receiving protection under (a) of this section a
delayed payment option allowing repayment over a period of time not shorter than the period
of time of the public health disaster emergency declared by the governor on March 11, 2020,
as extended by sec. 2 of this Act. The utility may not impose interest or late fees on a person
receiving protection under (a) of this section who fulfills the terms of a deferred payment
agreement.
(e) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, the Regulatory Commission of
Alaska and the Alaska Energy Authority may not deny a utility otherwise eligible to receive
power cost equalization payments on behalf of a utility customer power cost equalization
payments for customers receiving protection under (a) of this section.
(f) In this section, "person" means a natural person.
* Sec. 16. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
read:

REGULATORY ASSETS FOR UNPAID UTILITY BILLS AND
EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES. A utility certificated under AS 42.05 may record
regulatory assets, to be recovered through future rates, for uncollectable residential utility bills
and extraordinary expenses that result from the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) public
health disaster emergency declared by the governor on March 11, 2020, as extended by sec. 2 of this Act. The determination as to whether an extraordinary expense resulted from the COVID-19 public health disaster emergency and the amortization periods for the regulatory assets are subject to approval by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska before recovery occurs through future rates.

* Sec. 17. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

MORATORIUM ON EVICTIONS FOR NONPAYMENT OF RENT. (a) During the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) public health disaster emergency declared by the governor on March 11, 2020, as extended by sec. 2 of this Act, the statutory cause of action for forcible entry and detainer for nonpayment of rent under AS 09.45 and any other statutory cause of action that could be used to evict or otherwise eject a person who is a residential tenant for nonpayment of rent is suspended as applied to a person experiencing financial hardship related to the COVID-19 public health disaster emergency.

(b) A person seeking protection under (a) of this section shall, before the emergency declaration expires, provide to the landlord a signed statement, sworn under penalty of perjury, that the person is experiencing financial hardship related to the COVID-19 public health disaster emergency.

(c) This section does not relieve a person of the obligation to pay rent or restrict a landlord's ability to recover rent due.

(e) In this section, "person" means a natural person."

Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

Page 10, line 18:
Delete "6 - 13"
Insert "6 - 17"

(c) nothing in this section prevents evictions for misconduct, violations of law, or violations of contracts outside of inability to pay rent. Nor can it be construed to increase civil liability in a court of law.