

HOUSE BILL NO. 310

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/21/20

Referred: Labor and Commerce

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act tolling deadlines for action by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska during the**
2 **public health emergency declaration; relating to disconnection of utility service for**
3 **nonpayment; relating to regulatory assets of a utility; relating to evictions; relating to**
4 **foreclosures; and providing for an effective date."**

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

6 * **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
7 to read:

8 TOLLING DEADLINES FOR ACTION BY THE REGULATORY COMMISSION
9 OF ALASKA DURING THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)
10 OUTBREAK. Notwithstanding a contrary provision of AS 42, including a provision of
11 AS 42.05 or AS 42.08, during the public health disaster emergency declared by the governor
12 on March 11, 2020, and an extension of that emergency declaration by the Alaska State
13 Legislature, all statutory and regulatory deadlines for action by the Regulatory Commission of
14 Alaska are tolled and failure by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska to act on a filing does

1 not constitute approval or dismissal by the commission.

2 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
3 read:

4 **MORATORIUM ON DISCONNECTION OF RESIDENTIAL UTILITY SERVICE.**

5 During the public health disaster emergency declared by the governor on March 11, 2020, and
6 an extension of that emergency declaration by the Alaska State Legislature, a public utility as
7 defined in AS 42.05.990 may not disconnect residential utility service for nonpayment. A
8 public utility shall make reasonable efforts to reconnect utility service to an occupied dwelling
9 that is disconnected for nonpayment on or after March 11, 2020.

10 * **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
11 read:

12 **REGULATORY ASSETS FOR UNPAID UTILITY BILLS.** A utility certificated
13 under AS 42.05 may create regulatory assets for residential utility bills that are not paid
14 during the public health disaster emergency declared by the governor on March 11, 2020, and
15 an extension of that emergency declaration by the Alaska State Legislature.

16 * **Sec. 4.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
17 read:

18 **MORATORIUM ON EVICTIONS FOR NONPAYMENT OF RENT.** (a)

19 Notwithstanding a contrary provision of AS 34.03 or another law, during the public health
20 disaster emergency declared by the governor on March 11, 2020, and an extension of that
21 emergency declaration by the Alaska State Legislature, a landlord may not evict a person
22 experiencing financial hardship from a property for nonpayment of rent.

23 (b) A person seeking protection under (a) of this section shall, before the emergency
24 declaration expires, provide to the landlord an affidavit, under penalty of perjury, that the
25 person is experiencing financial hardship.

26 * **Sec. 5.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
27 read:

28 **MORATORIUM ON FORECLOSURES.** (a) Notwithstanding a contrary provision of
29 AS 09.45, AS 34.35, or another law, during the public health disaster emergency declared by
30 the governor on March 11, 2020, and an extension of that emergency declaration by the
31 Alaska State Legislature, a person may not foreclose on the property of a person experiencing

1 financial hardship.

2 (b) A person seeking protection under (a) of this section shall, before the emergency
3 declaration expires, provide to the financial institution seeking foreclosure an affidavit, under
4 penalty of perjury, that the person is experiencing financial hardship.

5 * **Sec. 6.** This Act is repealed April 30, 2021.

6 * **Sec. 7.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).