CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BY HIS EXCELLENCY
CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR

Emergency Order #58 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 as Extended by Executive Orders 2020-05, 2020-08, 2020-09, 2020-10 and 2020-14

An Order Terminating Emergency Order #3

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Governor issued Emergency Order 3, which prohibited all providers of electric, gas, water, telephone, cable, VOIP, internet, and deliverable fuels service in the State of New Hampshire from disconnecting or discontinuing service for non-payment; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Order 3 made clear that nothing within that Order relieved or should be construed to relieve customers of their obligation to pay bills for receipt of any service covered by the Order; and

WHEREAS, the State has instituted a number of programs designed to ease the economic challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, including, but not limited to, (1) expanding unemployment benefits through Emergency Order #5, (2) establishing the COVID-19 Emergency Healthcare System Relief Fund though Emergency Order #9, (3) allowing municipalities to grant blanket abatement of interest for late property tax payments through Emergency Order #25, (4) establishing the COVID-19 Long-Term Care Stabilization Program through Emergency Order #31, (5) establishing the First Responder Stipend Program, and (6) establishing the Main Street Relief Program to provide $400 million in relief to New Hampshire small businesses; and

WHEREAS, in addition to other relief programs, the Governor has authorized $35 million from the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund to support individuals and families needing assistance to maintain their housing as a result of COVID-19, and this assistance includes funds to help pay utility bills.

Now therefore, pursuant to Section 18 of Executive Order 2020-04 as extended by Executive Orders 2020-05, 2020-08, 2020-09, 2020-10, and 2020-14, it is hereby ordered, effective immediately, that:

1. Emergency Order 3 shall terminate on July 15, 2020.

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2. Consistent with Paragraph 3 of Emergency Order 3, customers are not relieved of their obligation to pay bills for receipt of any service covered by Emergency Order 3, and customers having arrearages accrued between March 17, 2020 and July 15, 2020 shall be provided the opportunity to make a reasonable payment arrangement over no less than a six month period and shall not be charged any fees for late payment for arrearages accrued between March 17, 2020 and July 15, 2020.

3. Covered providers whose rates are regulated by the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission"), and the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, may begin customer outreach immediately and shall offer payment arrangements, refrain from charging late fees, and begin normal collection activity and disconnections consistent with an agreement between a utility or utilities and the Commission's Consumer Services and External Affairs Division, subsequent order of the Commission, and/or rules adopted by the Commission pursuant to RSA 541-A. The Commission shall provide assistance and guidance to rate-regulated public utilities and the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative in implementing the provisions of this Order.

4. The Public Utilities Commission shall provide assistance and guidance to the public utilities in implementing the provisions of this Order.

5. The Public Utilities Commission and the Attorney General shall have the authority to enforce the provisions of this Order through any methods provided by current law.

Given under my hand and seal at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this 30th day of June, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and twenty, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and forty-four.

Chris T. Sununu

GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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