

## **Governor Phil Scott signs VPPSA rate flexibility law**

On April 27, Governor Phil Scott signed bill [S.60](#) into law. Sponsored by Senator Ann Cummings, the new legislation will facilitate the process through which cooperative and community-owned public power utilities make minor adjustments to electric rates and provide customers with new, innovative services. Read more:

[https://vtdigger.org/press\\_release/governor-phil-scott-signs-vppsa-rate-flexibility-bill/](https://vtdigger.org/press_release/governor-phil-scott-signs-vppsa-rate-flexibility-bill/)

## **Vermont Senate appropriates \$15 million to utility arrearages**

As the legislature works through assigning federal COVID relief funds, utilities have been advocating for assistance for customers' unpaid bills. Some smaller electric utilities have as many as 30% of customers with bills over 60 days past due. A utility disconnection [moratorium](#) will expire at the end of May, leaving these Vermonters at risk for disconnection. The state Senate recently appropriated \$15 million of CRF funds to assist with overdue bills. This Senate appropriation will be a part of the House and Senate budget reconciliation process in the coming weeks.

## **New utility management service offering**

As VPPSA evolves to meet member needs, utility management has risen to the top of the list as a desired service offering. VPPSA currently provides management services for Barton Village and is exploring management opportunities with other member utilities.

The new service offering is in accordance with national joint action agency trends. Organizations similar to VPPSA across the country are exploring utility management services to ensure municipal electric utilities continue to thrive.

## **VPPSA staff returning to the office in July**

After more than a year of effective remote work, VPPSA staff plans to return to the office beginning in early July. Board of directors meetings will likely return to in-person at the same time.

Upon return to the office, VPPSA will be following CDC guidelines regarding mask-wearing and physical distancing. All staff and directors are encouraged to receive the COVID-19 vaccine if they are able to.