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# Pa. to Lift Last Coronavirus-Induced Moratorium on Utility Shutoffs

*NBC 10 Philadelphia*

2 minutes

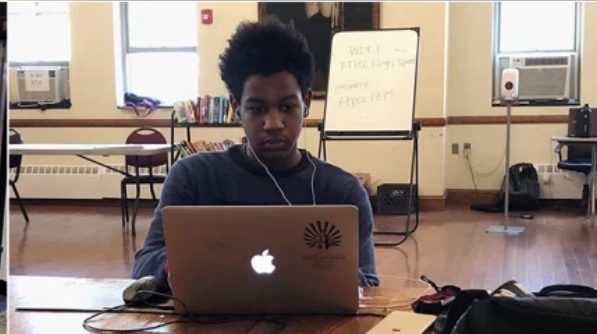
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Pennsylvania's Public Utility Commission on Thursday approved the lifting of its year-old moratorium [preventing utilities from terminating service to all non-paying customers](#), adopted as Gov. Tom Wolf began ordering shutdowns to fight the spreading coronavirus.

The moratorium will lift April 1 for the state's lower-income utility customers, but the commission also required all of its regulated utilities — including electric, natural gas, water, sewer and telephone — to give

them additional payment plan options.



Utilities asked as far back as last June at least to lift the moratorium, but Democrats on the five-member panel resisted until this month, as hundreds of millions of dollars in federal aid became available to renters that can be used to help pay utility bills.

Utilities had been permitted to resume disconnections last fall for residential customers above 300% of the federal poverty level, or about \$79,000 in annual income for a family of four last year.

Reports from utilities on file with the commission showed a modest year-over-year increase in the number of customers who were behind on bills, as of December. Those same reports, however, showed a much bigger increase in the amount of money those customers owe.