

WHEREAS, such limitations on person-to-person contact are reasonably necessary to address the public health risk posed by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, due to the State of Emergency, many North Carolinians are working from home and staying at home; many businesses have seen a substantial decline in demand for the goods or services that they sell, causing some businesses to close or reduce the size of their workforce; and some businesses have been ordered closed to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, any disruptions or dislocations that would require people to leave their homes increase the risk of spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the economic effects of the pandemic have broadly affected business owners, tenants, and employees across the state; and

WHEREAS, because of these and other economic effects from the COVID-19 pandemic, many North Carolinians are enduring financial hardship and financial insecurity; and

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2020 and May 1, 2020, Chief Justice Cheri Beasley of the North Carolina Supreme Court issued orders postponing court hearings, including eviction proceedings, until June 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in Executive Order No. 124, the undersigned and Attorney General Josh Stein provided further guidance on the Chief Justice's emergency order, as it relates to evictions, and strongly encouraged mortgage companies to take actions to alleviate the adverse impact caused by COVID-19 on mortgage borrowers who are unable to make timely payments; and

WHEREAS, when the Chief Justice's emergency orders allow court hearings to resume on June 1, 2020, residential tenants in North Carolina will be at risk of eviction; and

WHEREAS, residential evictions remove people from their homes, where they are safest during the COVID-19 pandemic, and thereby increase the risk that such people will contract and spread COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, many residential evictions leave people homeless, where they are at extreme risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, because many people are now performing their jobs and receiving schooling from their homes, residential evictions during the COVID-19 pandemic also threaten people's ability to maintain their livelihood and receive education; and

WHEREAS, for these and other reasons, it is reasonable and necessary that there be an additional twenty-one (21) day moratorium on residential evictions for reason of late payment or nonpayment, beginning on the date of this Executive Order; and

WHEREAS, commercial evictions disrupt and usually terminate the jobs of all the people in the commercial establishments where the eviction takes place; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's unemployment rate has greatly increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is reasonable and necessary to take actions that protect North Carolina jobs; and

WHEREAS, commercial evictions require significant amounts of unexpected travel, as commercial tenants move the equipment in the facilities they have leased, and this travel will unnecessarily expose people to risk of transmitting and spreading COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the federal Paycheck Protection Program and other programs under the CARES Act, P.L. 116-136, have provided financial assistance to small businesses, but these programs provide only a limited amount of assistance, and some commercial tenants are likely to exhaust the financial assistance provided under this program; and