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*For Immediate Release...*

### **Berlin Receives RELIEF Act Funds**

*Berlin, Md.* – On February 15, 2021, the Maryland General Assembly passed, and Governor Lawrence Hogan, Jr. signed into law, the RELIEF Act. Among other things, the RELIEF Act established the “Recovery Now Fund” as a special non-lapsing fund to address effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on Maryland’s economy. The RELIEF Act allocated a total of \$83 million to the Maryland Public Service Commission for arrearage forgiveness.

The RELIEF Act directed the Commission to distribute the allocations “as grants to utility companies to assist households with utility arrearages by reducing those arrearages”. The RELIEF Act also provided, as a general matter applicable to all spending authorized by the Act, that, to the extent practicable, funds should be distributed proportionately by population across the State. The Town of Berlin has received funds under the Act.

The RELIEF Act funds are intended to reduce the arrearage of residential electric customers with the priority order for households who have qualified for Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP). Qualified customers will receive notices via the U.S. Postal Service mail from the Town of Berlin.

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