

By: Swanson

H.B. No. 516

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to notice of a water service interruption provided by
3 public water systems in unincorporated areas of certain counties.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 341, Health and Safety
6 Code, is amended by adding Section 341.03561 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 341.03561. REQUIRED NOTICE OF WATER SERVICE
8 INTERRUPTION PROVIDED BY CERTAIN PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS TO FIRE
9 DEPARTMENTS. (a) In this section:

10 (1) "Fire department" has the meaning assigned by
11 Section 795.001.

12 (2) "Hydrant" has the meaning assigned by Section
13 341.03571.

14 (3) "Public safety answering point" has the meaning
15 assigned by Section 772.001.

16 (4) "Regulatory authority" means the Texas Commission
17 on Environmental Quality or the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

18 (b) This section applies only to a public water system
19 located in the unincorporated area of a county that contains a
20 municipality in which the governing body of the municipality or
21 another regulatory authority has adopted standards to require the
22 installation and maintenance of a hydrant in accordance with
23 Section 341.0358, 341.03585, or 341.0359.

24 (c) The regulatory authority of a public water system to

1 which this section applies shall by rule require the public water
2 system to provide to each fire department providing fire
3 suppression services in the area where the hydrant is located
4 notice of a water service interruption that renders the hydrant
5 temporarily unavailable for use in a fire emergency. The notice
6 must be provided:

7 (1) for a planned water service interruption, before
8 the interruption begins; and

9 (2) for an unplanned water service interruption of
10 three hours or more, as soon as practicable but not later than 24
11 hours from the time the authority is first notified or otherwise
12 becomes aware of the interruption.

13 (d) A public water system to which this section applies
14 shall provide to each fire department notified of a water service
15 interruption under Subsection (c) notice of the water service's
16 resumption not later than two hours after the time the water service
17 is resumed.

18 (e) For purposes of this section, a hydrant unavailable for
19 pumping directly from the hydrant is unavailable for use in a fire
20 emergency.

21 (f) For purposes of providing the required notices under
22 Subsections (c) and (d), the regulatory authority of a public water
23 system may approve the use of:

24 (1) a dynamic information database described by
25 Section 418.192, Government Code; and

26 (2) the public water system's Internet website or a
27 social media platform, as defined by Section 120.001, Business &

1 Commerce Code, that allows fire departments to subscribe to or
2 otherwise receive notices from the website or platform.

3 (g) The regulatory authority of a public water system may
4 delegate the system's duty to provide notice under Subsection (c)
5 or (d) to a public safety answering point that relays information to
6 fire departments providing fire suppression services in the area
7 where the affected hydrant is located. A public safety answering
8 point delegated the duty to provide notice under Subsection (c) or
9 (d) must provide that notice in accordance with the applicable time
10 for notice under those subsections.

11 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
15 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.