

By: Leibowitz

H.B. No. 2445

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to service by water and sewer utilities.

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

SECTION 1. Section 13.137(a), Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Every utility shall:

(1) make available and notify its customers of a business location where its customers may make payments to prevent disconnection of or to restore service, at a minimum, during the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding national and state holidays:

(A) in each county in which the utility provides service; or

(B) not more than 20 miles from the residence of any residential customer if there is no location to receive payments in the county; and

(2) have an office in a county of this state or in the immediate area in which its property or some part of its property is located in which it shall keep all books, accounts, records, and memoranda required by the commission to be kept in this state.

SECTION 2. Subchapter E, Chapter 13, Water Code, is amended by adding Section 13.146 to read as follows:

Sec. 13.146. DISCONNECTION OF SERVICE. (a) A utility may not disconnect service of a customer for late payment before the

1 31st day after the date the utility notifies the customer of the
2 overdue payment.

3 (b) After a disconnection caused by the customer's late
4 payment, a utility may not charge a customer a fee for restoring or
5 reinstalling service that exceeds \$25 or twice the amount of the
6 late payment owed, whichever is less.

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.