

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 2892

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to consolidated billing and collection of fees and  
3 payments of certain sewer service corporations and water supply  
4 corporations.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 13, Water Code, is amended  
7 by adding Section 13.146 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 13.146. CONSOLIDATED BILLING AND COLLECTION  
9 CONTRACTS. (a) A retail public utility providing water service may  
10 contract with a retail public utility providing sewer service to  
11 bill and collect the sewer service provider's fees and payments as  
12 part of a consolidated process with the billing and collection of  
13 the water service provider's fees and payments. The water service  
14 provider may provide that service only for customers who are served  
15 by both providers in an area covered by both providers'  
16 certificates of public convenience and necessity. If the water  
17 service provider refuses to enter into a contract under this  
18 section or if the water service provider and sewer service provider  
19 cannot agree on the terms of a contract, the sewer service provider  
20 may petition the commission to issue an order requiring the water  
21 service provider to provide that service.

22 (b) A contract or order under this section must provide  
23 procedures and deadlines for submitting billing and customer  
24 information to the water service provider and for the delivery of

1 collected fees and payments to the sewer service provider.

2 (c) A contract or order under this section may require or  
3 permit a water service provider that provides consolidated billing  
4 and collection of fees and payments to:

5 (1) terminate the water services of a person whose  
6 sewage services account is in arrears for nonpayment; and

7 (2) charge a customer a reconnection fee if the  
8 customer's water service is terminated for nonpayment of the  
9 customer's sewage services account.

10 (d) A water service provider that provides consolidated  
11 billing and collection of fees and payments may impose on each sewer  
12 service provider customer a reasonable fee to recover costs  
13 associated with providing consolidated billing and collection of  
14 fees and payments for sewage services.

15 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.