

By: Phillips

H.B. No. 693

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the authority of a water and sewer utility to collect  
3 voluntary contributions on behalf of a local library.

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

5 SECTION 1. Sections 13.143(a), (b), and (d), Water Code,  
6 are amended to read as follows:

7 (a) A utility may implement as part of its billing process a  
8 program under which the utility collects from its customers a  
9 voluntary contribution, including a voluntary membership or  
10 subscription fee, on behalf of a local library, a volunteer fire  
11 department, or an emergency medical service.

12 (b) A utility that collects contributions under this  
13 section shall provide each customer at the time that the customer  
14 first becomes a customer, and at least annually thereafter, a  
15 written statement:

16 (1) describing the procedure by which the customer may  
17 make a contribution with the customer's bill payment;

18 (2) designating the local library, volunteer fire  
19 department, or emergency medical service to which the utility will  
20 deliver the contribution;

21 (3) informing the customer that a contribution is  
22 voluntary; and

23 (4) describing the deductibility status of the  
24 contribution under federal income tax law.

1           (d) The utility shall promptly deliver contributions that  
2 it collects under this section to the designated local library,  
3 volunteer fire department, or emergency medical service, except  
4 that the utility may keep from the contributions an amount equal to  
5 the lesser of:

6                   (1) the utility's expenses in administering the  
7 contribution program; or

8                   (2) five percent of the amount collected as  
9 contributions.

10           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.