

By: Nevárez

H.B. No. 4246

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 4246:

By: Ramos

C.S.H.B. No. 4246

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to nonsubmetered billing for water or wastewater service.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter M, Chapter 13, Water Code, is amended by adding Section 13.5032 to read as follows:

Sec. 13.5032. MUNICIPAL NONSUBMETERED BILLING; CHARGES.

(a) Each municipally owned utility that bills for nonsubmetered master metered utility service shall make publicly available for each entity billed a statement that includes:

(1) a current copy of the municipally owned utility's rate structure applicable to the billed service; and

(2) a list of fees and charges applicable to the billed service.

(b) Subsection (a) does not authorize or require a municipally owned utility to make an entity's bill publicly available.

(c) A municipally owned utility may not charge a dwelling unit base charge for nonsubmetered master metered utility service.

A municipally owned utility may not impose different per-meter base charges on residential and commercial customers. Notwithstanding

Subchapter C, a person may appeal a charge that does not comply with this subsection by filing a petition with the utility commission.

The utility commission shall hear the appeal de novo, and the municipality charging the fee has the burden of proof to establish

1 that the charge complies with this subsection.

2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.