

By: Nevárez

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. The heading to Section 13.5031, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 13.5031. NONSUBMETERING RULES; CHARGES.

SECTION 2. Section 13.5031, Water Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) An owner, operator, or manager of an apartment house, manufactured home rental community, or multiple use facility who bills tenants for nonsubmetered master metered utility service may not charge a dwelling unit base charge of more than \$5.

SECTION 3. 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) A municipally owned utility may not charge a dwelling unit base charge of more than \$5 for nonsubmetered master metered

1 utility service. Notwithstanding Subchapter C, a person may appeal
2 a charge that does not comply with this subsection by filing a
3 petition with the utility commission. The utility commission shall
4 hear the appeal de novo, and the municipality charging the fee has
5 the burden of proof to establish that the fee complies with this
6 subsection. The utility commission shall set the fees to be charged
7 by the municipality in accordance with this subsection.

8 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.