

1-1 By: Perez, González of Dallas H.B. No. 1506
1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Johnson)
1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 11, 2019;
1-4 April 15, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Water
1-5 & Rural Affairs; April 30, 2019, reported favorably by the
1-6 following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 1; April 30, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

1-8	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9	X			
1-10		X		
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			

1-16 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-17 AN ACT

1-18 relating to authorizing a regulatory authority to establish reduced
1-19 water and sewer utility rates funded by donations for the benefit of
1-20 certain low-income customers.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Section 13.182, Water Code, is amended by
1-23 amending Subsection (b-1) and adding Subsection (b-2) to read as
1-24 follows:

1-25 (b-1) In establishing a utility's rates, the regulatory
1-26 authority may authorize the utility to establish reduced water and
1-27 sewer rates for a minimal level of service to be provided solely to
1-28 a class of [elderly] customers who are 65 years of age or older, who
1-29 receive medical assistance under the medical assistance program
1-30 established under Chapter 32, Human Resources Code, or who receive
1-31 benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program
1-32 established under Chapter 33, Human Resources Code, to ensure that
1-33 those customers receive that level of service at more affordable
1-34 rates. The regulatory authority may establish requirements for
1-35 determining the eligibility of customers to receive reduced rates
1-36 under this subsection.

1-37 (b-2) The regulatory authority shall allow a utility to
1-38 establish a fund to receive donations to recover the costs of
1-39 providing the reduced rates under Subsection (b-1). A utility may
1-40 not recover those costs through charges to the utility's other
1-41 customer classes.

1-42 SECTION 2. (a) The changes in law made by this Act to
1-43 Section 13.182, Water Code, apply only to proceedings before a
1-44 regulatory authority regarding rates concerning an application
1-45 filed on or after January 1, 2020. Proceedings before a regulatory
1-46 authority regarding rates concerning an application filed before
1-47 January 1, 2020, are governed by the law in effect when the
1-48 application was filed, and the former law is continued in effect for
1-49 that purpose.

1-50 (b) The Public Utility Commission of Texas and other
1-51 regulatory authorities shall adopt rules as necessary to implement
1-52 the changes in law made by this Act not later than December 31,
1-53 2019.

1-54 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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