LEGISLATIVE ACTION House Senate Comm: TP 03/21/2023

The Committee on Regulated Industries (Martin) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

3 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Section 166.201, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

166.201 Taxes and charges.-

(1) A municipality may raise, by taxation and licenses authorized by the constitution or general law, or by user charges or fees authorized by ordinance, amounts of money which

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are necessary for the conduct of municipal government and may enforce their receipt and collection in the manner prescribed by ordinance not inconsistent with law.

- (2) (a) A municipality that owns and operates an electric, natural gas, water, or wastewater utility may fund or finance general government functions using a portion of the revenues generated from rates, fees, and charges for the provision of such utility service. The portion of utility revenues that may be used during a fiscal year to fund or finance general government functions, after payment of all utility expenses, may not exceed:
- 1. For revenues generated from electric utility operations, a transfer rate equal to the amount derived by applying the average of the midpoints of the rates of return on equity approved by the Public Service Commission for each investorowned electric utility in this state to the municipal electric utility's revenues.
- 2. For revenues generated from natural gas utility operations, a transfer rate equal to the amount derived by applying the average of the midpoints of the rates of return on equity approved by the Public Service Commission for each investor-owned natural gas utility in this state to the municipal natural gas utility's revenues.
- 3. For revenues generated from water or wastewater operations, a transfer rate equal to the amount derived by applying the rate of return on equity established by the Public Service Commission under s. 367.081(4)(f) to the municipal water or wastewater utility's revenues.
 - (b) Except as provided in paragraph (c), the transfer rate

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applied to municipal utility revenues under subparagraphs (a)1., 2., and 3. shall be reduced as follows:

- 1. If more than 15 percent of a municipal utility's retail customers, as measured by total meters served, are located outside the municipal boundaries, by 150 basis points.
- 2. If more than 30 percent of a municipal utility's retail customers, as measured by total meters served, are located outside the municipal boundaries, by 300 basis points.
- 3. If more than 45 percent of a municipal utility's retail customers, as measured by total meters served, are located outside the municipal boundaries, by 450 basis points.
- (c) The reductions specified in paragraph (b) do not apply to a municipal utility service if the utility service is governed by a utility authority board that, through the election of voting members from outside the municipal boundaries, provides for representation of retail customers located outside the municipal boundaries approximately proportionate to the percentage of such customers, as measured by total meters served, that receive service from the utility.

Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 180.191, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 180.191 Limitation on rates charged consumer outside city limits.-
- (1) Any municipality within the state operating a water or sewer utility outside of the boundaries of such municipality shall charge consumers outside the boundaries rates, fees, and charges determined in one of the following manners:
- (a) It may charge the same rates, fees, and charges as consumers inside the municipal boundaries. However, in addition

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thereto, the municipality may add a surcharge of not more than 25 percent of such rates, fees, and charges to consumers outside the boundaries. Fixing of such rates, fees, and charges in this manner does shall not require a public hearing except as may be provided for service to consumers inside the municipality.

(b) 1. It may charge rates, fees, and charges that are just and equitable and that which are based on the same factors used in fixing the rates, fees, and charges for consumers inside the municipal boundaries. In addition thereto, the municipality may add a surcharge not to exceed 25 percent of such rates, fees, and charges for said services to consumers outside the boundaries. However, the total of all Such rates, fees, and charges for the services to consumers outside the boundaries may shall not be more than 25 50 percent greater than in excess of the total amount the municipality charges consumers served within the municipality for corresponding service. No Such rates, fees, and charges may not shall be fixed until after a public hearing at which all of the users of the water or sewer systems; owners, tenants, or occupants of property served or to be served thereby; and all others interested shall have an opportunity to be heard concerning the proposed rates, fees, and charges. Any change or revision of such rates, fees, or charges may be made in the same manner as such rates, fees, or charges were originally established, but if such change or revision is to be made substantially pro rata as to all classes of service, both inside and outside the municipality, a no hearing or notice is not shall be required.

2. Any municipality within this state operating a water or sewer utility that provides service to consumers within the



boundaries of a separate municipality through the use of a water treatment plant or sewer treatment plant located within the boundaries of that separate municipality may not charge consumers in the separate municipality more than the rates, fees, and charges imposed on consumers inside its own municipal boundaries.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

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========= T I T L E A M E N D M E N T ========== And the title is amended as follows:

Delete everything before the enacting clause and insert:

110 A bill to be entitled

> An act relating to municipal utilities; amending s. 166.201, F.S.; authorizing certain municipalities to fund or finance general government functions with a specified portion of revenues from certain utility operations; establishing limits on utility revenue transfers for municipal utilities that serve customers located outside the municipal boundaries; amending s. 180.191, F.S.; modifying provisions relating to permissible rates, fees, and charges imposed by municipal water and sewer utilities on customers located outside the municipal boundaries; providing an effective date.