

HB777

2024

1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to municipal water or sewer utility  
3 rates, fees, and charges; amending s. 180.191, F.S.;  
4 removing a provision authorizing certain  
5 municipalities serving consumers outside their  
6 boundaries to add specific surcharges to the rates,  
7 fees, and charges; removing a provision which does not  
8 require a public hearing for adding specific  
9 surcharges; requiring certain municipalities to  
10 conduct rate studies by specified dates; providing an  
11 effective date.

12  
13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
14

15 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 180.191, Florida  
16 Statutes, is amended, and a new subsection (5) is added to that  
17 section, to read:

18 180.191 Limitation on rates charged consumer outside city  
19 limits.—

20 (1) Any municipality within the state operating a water or  
21 sewer utility outside of the boundaries of such municipality  
22 shall charge consumers outside the boundaries rates, fees, and  
23 charges ~~determined in one of the following manners:~~

24 ~~(a) It may charge the same rates, fees, and charges as~~  
25 ~~consumers inside the municipal boundaries. However, in addition~~

26 ~~thereto, the municipality may add a surcharge of not more than~~  
27 ~~25 percent of such rates, fees, and charges to consumers outside~~  
28 ~~the boundaries. Fixing of such rates, fees, and charges in this~~  
29 ~~manner shall not require a public hearing except as may be~~  
30 ~~provided for service to consumers inside the municipality.~~

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

HB 777

2024

51 | and outside the municipality, no hearing or notice shall be  
52 | required.

53 |       (5) Each municipality subject to subsection (1) must  
54 | conduct a rate study by January 1, 2027, and every 7 years  
55 | thereafter.

56 |       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.