

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to consumer fairness in utility rates;
3 amending s. 180.191, F.S.; providing a short title;
4 defining the terms "facility" and "recipient
5 municipality"; requiring certain municipalities to
6 impose the same utility rates, fees, and charges on
7 consumers within its municipal boundaries and the
8 boundaries of a recipient municipality; prohibiting
9 such municipalities from imposing surcharges on
10 consumers within the boundaries of a recipient
11 municipality unless certain conditions are met;
12 prohibiting certain use of such surcharges; requiring
13 such municipalities to hold certain public hearings;
14 requiring certain municipalities to file specified
15 reports with the Public Service Commission; requiring
16 the commission to review certain consumer disputes and
17 make certain determinations; providing an effective
18 date.

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20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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22 **Section 1. Section 180.191, Florida Statutes, is amended**
23 **to read:**

24 (Substantial rewording of section. See
25 s. 180.191, F.S., for present text.)

26 180.191 Consumer fairness in utility rates.—

27 (1) This section may be cited as the "Consumer Fairness in
28 Utility Rates Act of 2025."

29 (2) As used in this section, the term:

30 (a) "Facility" means a water treatment facility, a
31 wastewater treatment facility, a pumping station, a well, or
32 other physical component of a utility system.

33 (b) "Recipient municipality" means a municipality that
34 receives water or sewer service from another municipality's
35 utility system.

36 (3) A municipality operating a water or sewer utility that
37 has a facility located within a recipient municipality must
38 impose the same base rates, fees, and charges on consumers
39 within the recipient municipality as it does on consumers within
40 its municipal boundaries.

41 (4) (a) A municipality operating a water or sewer utility
42 that has a facility located within a recipient municipality may
43 not impose a surcharge on consumers within the boundaries of the
44 recipient municipality unless the surcharge is:

45 1. Directly tied to documented costs of service,
46 maintenance, or infrastructure investment; and

47 2. Clearly disclosed to the consumer in writing at the
48 time of billing.

49 (b) Surcharges may not be used as a general revenue source
50 or profit margin.

51 (5) Before establishing or adjusting rates, fees, or
52 surcharges, a municipality operating a water or sewer utility
53 that has a facility located within a recipient municipality must
54 hold a public hearing to allow input from consumers within its
55 municipal boundaries and the boundaries of the recipient
56 municipality.

57 (6) A municipality operating a water or sewer utility must
58 file an annual report with the Public Service Commission
59 detailing the use of surcharge revenues.

60 (7) Consumer disputes over rates, fees, or surcharges must
61 be reviewed by the Public Service Commission for a determination
62 of fairness and compliance with this section.

63 **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.