

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 594
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Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs
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Enrolled

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Water supply corporations (WSCs) are non-profit, member-owned, and member-controlled corporations distinct from water districts, which are local governmental entities. There may be some differences in their organizational structure and scope, but WSCs and water districts share the same primary objective to provide water services. Water districts, however, may not charge recreational vehicle (RV) parks excessive administrative fees nor different rates than similar commercial businesses, while WSCs may. What's more, Texas law does not require water supply corporations to provide sufficient connections and water to RV parks.

S.B. 594 would standardize how WSCs and water districts bill RV parks by prohibiting WSCs from assessing administrative fees and charging different rates than similar commercial businesses. The bill also would ensure public drinking water supply systems provide sufficient water capacity, as determined by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, to RV parks. Accordingly, RV park owners would not have to pay disproportioned costs depending on what entity provides water services and could trust that they have enough water for their customers, consequently enhancing the Texan RV park industry.

(Original Author's/Sponsor's Statement of Intent)

S.B. 594 amends current law relating to requirements for and charges for service from public drinking water supply systems.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in SECTION 1 (Section 341.0315, Health and Safety Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 341.0315, Health and Safety Code, by amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (c-1), as follows:

(c) Requires that each public drinking water supply:

(1) creates this subdivision from existing text; and

(2) provide a quantity of water or capacity of water sufficient to serve the number of connections served by the public drinking water supply system.

(c-1) Requires the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) by rule to establish connection equivalency values for each meter size used to serve a recreational vehicle park, as defined by Section 13.087 (Municipal Rates for Certain Recreational Vehicle Parks), Water Code, for use in determining the number of connections served by a public drinking water supply system that provides service through meters, notwithstanding any other law. Authorizes TCEQ, when determining the number of connections, to consider only service for which a meter has been installed that conforms with industry standards. Requires that the rules:

(1) establish that eight recreational vehicle or cabin sites at a recreational vehicle park, whether occupied or not, are equivalent to one residential metered connection; and

(2) provide a variance from a connection equivalency value established under this subsection for a public drinking water supply system if actual system usage is more than 10 percent below the equivalency value.

SECTION 2. Amends Subchapter E, Chapter 13, Water Code, by adding Section 13.152, as follows:

Sec. 13.152. BILLING FOR RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKS. (a) Defines "recreational vehicle park."

(b) Provides that a retail public utility, other than a municipally owned utility described by Section 13.087, providing water or sewer service to a recreational vehicle park:

(1) is required to ensure that billing for the service is based on actual water usage recorded by the retail public utility; and

(2) is prohibited from imposing a surcharge based on the number of recreational vehicle or cabin sites in the recreational vehicle park.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2023.