

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Deckert, Monnes Anderson, Starr, Metsger
Nays:	0
Exc.:	George L.
Prepared By:	Janet Adkins, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Provides that a water utility is only required to mail a notice of delinquency to a property owner if the utility asserts that the property owner is responsible for the bill.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Original purpose of notice requirement
- Expense and ineffectiveness of many notices
- Water utility policy regarding withholding of service to property owners or future tenants for nonpayment of bills by previous tenants

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Under legislation passed in 2005, water utilities are required to mail a notice to property owners when water service payments are delinquent for more than 120 days. This notice requirement applies to owners of rental property regardless of whether the property owner is responsible for the payment. The intent was to apprise property owners when a tenant was delinquent on payments in case it affected the ability to get service to the property. Unless the property owner is responsible for payment, however, the notice of delinquency is of no value to the owner or utility. Due to privacy policies the utility cannot discuss an occupant/tenant's bill with anyone without the tenant's consent. Under House Bill 2792, if the utility asserts that the property owner is responsible for payment, the notice will still be required.