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## DIGEST

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HB 652 Original

2022 Regular Session

Hilferty

**Abstract:** Provides that the Sewerage and Water Board is recognized as a public utility subject to regulation by the New Orleans City Council.

Present law (R.S. 33:4071) provides that the public water, sewerage, and drainage systems of the city of New Orleans shall be constructed, controlled, maintained, and operated by a sewerage and water board.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally provides that the board is recognized as a public utility. Provides that the board is subject to regulation as a public utility by the New Orleans City Council (city council).

Proposed law grants the city council the power to compile financial statements and to examine, audit, or review the books and accounts of the board. Authorizes the city council to examine all papers, books, accounts, records, files, instruments, documents, films, tapes, and any other forms of recordation, including but not limited to computers and recording devices.

Proposed law further authorizes the city council, in lieu of examinations of the records and accounts of the board, to accept an audit or review report prepared by a licensed certified public accountant. Requires that the audit or review be performed in accordance with generally accepted governmental auditing standards and the La. Governmental Audit Guide. Further requires that audits be completed within six months of the close of the board's fiscal year.

Proposed law authorizes the city council to issue subpoenas to the board to compel the production of public and private books, documents, records, papers, films, tapes, and electronic data processing media. Provides that if the board refuses to obey a subpoena, a judicial district court, may issue an order requiring a board representative to appear before the court. Further provides that failure to obey a subpoena may be punished as a contempt of court.

(Adds R.S. 33:4061)