DIGEST

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Montoucet HB No. 1236

Abstract: Directs the Public Service Commission to develop a streamlined review process whereby a nonprofit water utility cooperative or corporation wholly owned by water user members may request and receive an increase in rates by submitting an application.

<u>Present law</u> (constitution) provides for the regulation of public utilities by the Public Service Commission.

<u>Proposed law</u> directs the Public Service Commission to develop a streamlined review process whereby a nonprofit water utility cooperative or corporation wholly owned by water user members may request and receive an increase in rates by submitting an application.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires the application to the Public Service Commission to contain a list of the existing and proposed rates by customer class, including but not limited to residential, commercial, or industrial class, an applicant fee by check or money order, proof of publication in the official journal for the parish in which the nonprofit water utility cooperative or corporation wholly owned by water user members is located, a rate study conducted by the Louisiana Rural Water Association justifying the need for an increase in rates, and documentation providing evidence of board and member approval of the change in rates.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides for a process by which a nonprofit water utility cooperative or corporation wholly owned by water user members shall conduct the approval of the change in rates which is required to be documented in the application to the Public Service Commission.

(Adds R.S. 45:1176.1)