

By: Senator(s) Gordon

To: Business and Financial
Institutions

SENATE BILL NO. 2719

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF A BUILDING
2 CONTAINING RESIDENTIAL UNITS TO SUB-METER TENANTS FOR WATER AND
3 WASTEWATER SERVICE UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS; AND FOR RELATED
4 PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 SECTION 1. (1) The owner or operator of a building
7 containing residential units may install equipment or use an
8 economic allocation methodology to determine the quantity of water
9 that is provided to the tenants and used in the common areas of
10 such a building; and the owner of such a building may charge
11 tenants separately for water and wastewater service based on usage
12 as determined through the use of such equipment or allocation
13 methodology. The activities described in this code section shall
14 not cause any owner or operator engaging in such activities to be
15 considered the owner or operator of a public water system or a
16 public utility, notwithstanding any provision of law to the
17 contrary.

18 (2) The owner or operator of a building containing
19 residential units may charge tenants separately for water and
20 wastewater service, provided that the total amount of the charges
21 to the tenants of such a building shall not exceed the total
22 charges paid by the owner or operator for water and wastewater
23 service for such building plus a reasonable fee for establishing,
24 servicing, and billing for water and wastewater service and
25 provided, further, that the terms of the charges are disclosed to
26 the tenants prior to any contractual agreement.

27 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
28 and after July 1, 2001.