

By: Senator(s) Michel

To: Municipalities

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 3049

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE A PROCEDURE TO HELP COLLECT DELINQUENT  
2 MUNICIPAL, COUNTY, DISTRICT OR RURAL WATER BILLS; AND FOR RELATED  
3 PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** (1) For purposes of this act:

6 (a) "Water sewer association" means any corporation,  
7 whether for profit or not for profit, that provides, distributes,  
8 transmits, treats, pumps, or stores raw or potable water to, or  
9 for the benefit of, members of the general public or commercial,  
10 industrial and other users; and

11 (b) "Water sewer system" means any entity that  
12 provides, distributes, transmits, treats, pumps or stores raw or  
13 potable water to or for the benefit of members of the general  
14 public and commercial, industrial, and other users, including,  
15 without limitation, the following entities that perform such  
16 activities:

- 17 (i) Municipalities;
- 18 (ii) Counties; and
- 19 (iii) Water sewer associations.

20 (2) (a) When a person is delinquent on the payment of an  
21 undisputed bill for water sewer service provided by a water sewer  
22 system within this state, moves into another area of this state,  
23 and applies for or receives water from another water sewer system,  
24 if the person's former water sewer system establishes that there  
25 is no dispute that the delinquent amount is properly due and owed  
26 by that particular individual in that amount, the new water sewer  
27 system shall refuse to provide water sewer service to the

28 delinquent person until such person provides proof of curing the  
29 delinquency.

30 (b) This subsection shall not apply to a delinquency  
31 that has been disputed by the person in writing, unless the  
32 delinquency has been reduced to a final judgment of a court of  
33 competent jurisdiction.

34 **SECTION 2.** No provision of this act shall apply to a water  
35 sewer system that is regulated by the Mississippi Public Service  
36 Commission as a "public utility" as defined in Section 77-3-3.

37 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
38 and after July 1, 2007.