

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 656 (Substitute for House Bill No. 373 by Representative DeVillier)

BY REPRESENTATIVE DEVILLIER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

WATER/DRINKING WATER: Provides relative to water cooperatives

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 45:1604, relative to water cooperatives; to prohibit cooperatives from denying  
3 certain requests for water service; to provide for exceptions; and to provide for  
4 related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 45:1604 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §1604. Requirement to provide service

8 No water cooperative shall arbitrarily deny a request for water service to a  
9 properly permitted residential or commercial structure that is located within the  
10 cooperative's service area. This Section does not prohibit a cooperative from  
11 discontinuing water service to a customer who fails to pay service charges or for  
12 other just cause. Notwithstanding R.S. 45:1603, this Section applies to all water  
13 cooperatives.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 656 Original 2023 Regular Session DeVillier

**Abstract:** Prohibits water cooperatives from arbitrarily denying requests for water service.

Present law defines a water cooperative as a nonprofit water utility cooperative or corporation that is wholly owned by water user members.

Proposed law prohibits a water cooperative from denying a request for water service to a properly permitted residential or commercial structure that is located within the cooperative's service area. Proposed law does not prohibit discontinuing service to a customer for a just cause.

(Adds R.S. 45:1604)