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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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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DIGEST

SB 242 Original

2025 Regular Session

Owen

Present law provides that the rates to be charged to consumers of water and users of the sewerage system shall not become effective unless and until approval by the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, and by a majority vote of the council of the city of New Orleans. Provides that prior to taking actions of a rate and 30 days before setting a water or sewerage rate the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans shall notify the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, and the council of the city of New Orleans of its intentions and shall hold at least three public meetings to discuss new rates.

Proposed law retains present law except replaces the authority of the council of the city of New Orleans (city council) with the Public Service Commission (commission).

Present law provides that the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (board), the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, and the council are the governing body of the city of New Orleans and shall have full power to carry out any provisions related to the proper administration of the sewerage and water system.

Proposed law retains present law except replaces the authority of the city council with the commission.

Present law allows the city council to examine, audit, or review the books and accounts of the board. Further allows the city council to have access to and be permitted to examine all papers, books, accounts, records, files, instruments, documents, and other form of recordations of the board.

Present law allows the city council to accept an audit or review report prepared by a licensed certified public accountant, if the audit is completed in six months of the close of the board's fiscal year.

Present law allows the city council to prescribe the terms and conditions of any such audit or review conducted by a licensed certified public accountant. Allows the city council to have access to the working papers of the accountant during the examination and subsequent to its termination.

Present law allows the city council to issue subpoenas to the board to compel the production of books, documents, records, papers, films, tapes, and data processing media. Provides that subpoenas can be serviced by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the board's business address.

Present law allows the city council to adopt any rules and regulations it deems necessary to

implement the provisions of present law.

Proposed law retains present law except replaces the authority of the city council with the commission.

Present law provides for an arbitration program for customers to dispute their water and sewerage bills to the board and allows the customer to appeal to the city council if the customer is dissatisfied with the outcome of the arbiter.

Proposed law retains present law except allows the customer to appeal to the commission.  
Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 33:4096(A)(2), 4121(A)(2), 4123, 4159.1(A)-(E), and 4159.3(B)(6); repeals R.S. 33:4159.2)