

ASSEMBLY, No. 1330

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

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District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

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SYNOPSIS

Prohibits water companies from assessing more than one charge per fire hydrant to fire departments, fire districts, or volunteer fire companies for use of fire hydrants.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning certain water company charges and amending
2 R.S.48:19-18.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. R.S.48:19-18 is amended to read as follows:

8 48:19-18. Each water company organized under the laws of this
9 State may sell and dispose of the water issuing from its reservoirs,
10 aqueducts, or pipes for such rates and pursuant to such terms and
11 conditions as are in accordance with its approved tariffs on file with
12 the Board of Public Utilities, provided, however **[**, as follows**]**:

13 a. No tariff shall be approved that provides for or allows the
14 imposition of any standby fees or charges for any fire protection
15 system to a residential customer served by a water service line of
16 two inches or less in diameter.

17 b. No tariff shall be approved that provides for or allows the
18 imposition of any fees in excess of the cost of water actually used
19 for any sprinkler system required to be installed in any residential
20 health care facility pursuant to the "Health Care Facilities Planning
21 Act," P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) and regulations
22 promulgated thereunder or in any rooming or boarding house
23 pursuant to the "Rooming and Boarding House Act of 1979,"
24 P.L.1979, c.496 (C.55:13B-1 et al.) and regulations promulgated
25 thereunder. Nothing herein shall preclude any water company from
26 charging for the actual cost of water main connection.

27 c. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S.48:3-1, R.S.48:3-4, or
28 the provisions of any other law, rule, regulation, or order to the
29 contrary, no tariff shall be approved that provides for, or allows the
30 imposition of, more than one charge or fee per fire hydrant imposed
31 on any periodic bill by a water company to a fire department, as
32 defined in section 2 of P.L.1977, c.85 (C.34:13A-15), a fire district
33 organized pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.40A:14-70 et seq., or
34 a volunteer fire company organized pursuant to Title 15 of the
35 Revised Statutes or Title 15A of the New Jersey Statutes, for the
36 use of any fire hydrant.

37 d. Nothing in this section shall preclude a water company from
38 requiring separate dedicated service lines for fire protection. The
39 water company may require that fire service lines be metered.
40 Nothing in this section shall alter the liability for maintenance and
41 repair of service lines which exists on the effective date of
42 P.L.2003, c.278.

43 (cf: P.L.2003, c.278, s.8)

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain
2 inoperative for 60 days following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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7 This bill prohibits the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities from
8 approving a tariff for a water company (i.e., an investor-owned
9 water public utility) under its jurisdiction that includes more than
10 one rental charge or fee per fire hydrant on any periodic bill of the
11 water public utility for the use of a fire hydrant to a fire department,
12 fire district, or volunteer fire company.