

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 55

AN ACT

To amend chapter 386, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to low-income rate authorization for water corporations and sewer corporations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI,
AS FOLLOWS:

Section A. Chapter 386, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 386.264, to read as follows:

386.264. 1. In any general rate proceeding for a water corporation or sewer corporation, the commission shall have authority to set a separate, lower fixed charge or customer charge for low-income customers of such water corporation or sewer corporation, upon a determination that such charge is in the public interest, provided that rates are designed such that the rates are not financially detrimental to the water corporation or sewer corporation.

2. For purposes of this section, "low-income customer" means a residential customer who meets the criteria for assistance for the Utilicare program under sections 660.100 to 660.136.

3. The aggregate impact of any special low-income rate shall be limited to no more than one-half of one percent of the total revenue requirement allocated to the residential customer

class used to set rates. The commission shall not require any water or sewer corporation to verify the financial status of its customers and shall permit water or sewer corporations to rely upon a third party or community agency to verify any eligibility requirements approved by the commission in order for a residential customer to qualify for a low-income program or rate approved under this section.

4. The commission may promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010 that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2019, shall be invalid and void.