

## CHAPTER 402

## H.B. No. 1153

## AN ACT

relating to the location of certain utility rate hearings.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 13.187(b), Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) If, within 60 days after the effective date of the rate change, the regulatory authority receives a complaint from any affected municipality, or from the lesser of 1,000 or 10 percent of the ratepayers of the utility over whose rates the regulatory authority has original jurisdiction, the regulatory authority shall set the matter for hearing. The regulatory authority may set the matter for hearing on its own motion at any time within 120 days after the effective date of the rate change. *If more than half of the ratepayers of the utility receive service in a county with a population of more than 2.5 million, the hearing must be held at a location in that county.* The hearing may be informal. If, after hearing, the regulatory authority finds the rates currently being charged or those proposed to be charged are unreasonable or in violation of law, the regulatory authority shall determine the rates to be charged by the utility and shall fix the rates by order served on the utility.

SECTION 2. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on April 15, 1993, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 19, 1993: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 2, 1993.

Effective Aug. 30, 1993, 90 days after date of adjournment.