

SENATE BILL NO. 50

BY SENATOR MURRAY

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 33:4071(F), relative to the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans; to
3 provide relative to the governing authority of the Sewerage and Water Board; to
4 provide for release of obligations of indebtedness; to provide for an effective date;
5 and to provide for related matters.

6 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 33:4071(F) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 PART III. CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

10 §4071. Creation and organization of sewerage and water board

11 * * *

12 **F. Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, the board may**
13 **adopt rules and procedures authorizing the adjusting, releasing, or**
14 **extinguishing of any indebtedness from a customer's sewerage and water bill.**
15 **The rule shall limit the board's compromising authority to appropriate**
16 **instances in which any of the following occur:**

17 **(1) Instances of error on the part of the district such as equipment failure**
18 **or process failure, and in such instances, only to the extent the failure increased**
19 **the customer's indebtedness.**

20 **(2) Instances in which an employee of the board, or a person acting on**
21 **behalf of the board, fails to read a customer's water meter regardless of whether**
22 **the board has submitted an invoice to the customer for an amount owed during**
23 **any such period.**

24 **(3) Instances of error not on the part of the customer due to unforeseen**
25 **damage or an extreme weather-related event or mandatory evacuation, and in**
26 **such instances, only to the extent the situation increased the customer's**
27 **indebtedness.**

1 **(4) Instances where the customer is disproportionately impoverished or**
 2 **needy and qualifies for an adjustment, release, or extinguishment pursuant to**
 3 **an established social welfare program of the district.**

4 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 5 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 6 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 7 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 8 effective on the day following such approval.

 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

 GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____