



**PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD MEETING  
AGENDA ITEM**

**REGULAR MEETING**  
Wednesday, January 11, 2017

**SUBJECT**

Consider and take action on potential State Legislation for the 85th Legislative Session, including draft legislation authorizing a customer affordability rate structure as previously directed by the Board.

**BACKGROUND**

Affordability legislation: Customers at times experience circumstances that prevent them from paying their utility bill in full. EP Water is limited in its ability to provide relief or assistance to such customers. The proposed legislation would allow EP Water to create a customer payment assistance program to help customers who are not able to pay their water bill.

**EVALUATION PROCESS**

N/A

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

**PROPOSED ACTION REQUESTED**

Consider and take action on potential State Legislation for the 85th Legislative Session, including draft legislation authorizing a customer affordability rate structure as previously directed by the Board.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED**

- Draft Legislation for a Customer Affordability Rate Structure

DRAFT

Subchapter Z, Chapter 552, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section \_\_\_\_\_ to read as follows:

Sec. \_\_\_\_\_. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN BOARDS OF TRUSTEES. (a) in this section, "utility system" means a water, wastewater, reclaimed water, or stormwater system, or any combination of those systems.

(b) This section applies only to a municipality described by Section 1502.070 (a) (2) (B), Government Code.

(c) Notwithstanding any limitation provided by a home rule charter or any other policy of the municipal governing body, the board of trustees shall have the authority to establish a bill payment assistance program for utility system customers who have been threatened with disconnection from service for nonpayment of bills or who have been determined by the utility system to be low-income customers.