



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 2350-2012, **Version:** 1

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### **WATER 2013**

#### **BACKGROUND:**

This ordinance authorizes an increase in water rates effective January 1, 2013 for the Division of Power and Water and to amend Chapter 1105 of the Columbus City Codes, 1959.

The proposed rate configuration for 2013 recognizes that water and sewer charges disproportionately effect lower income groups and continues the Low Income Discount program that discounts participant's sewer commodity portion of their quarterly bill by 20%.

Requested adjustments in rates result in a typical inside city residential water rate increase of 4%. When a sewer increase of 1% is considered the overall impact on a typical residential customer in the City of Columbus is 2.18% and for an outside city residential customer 2.46%.

The proposed rate structure is necessary to continue to address the new Ohio EPA regulations regarding water supply, water treatment capacity and drinking water quality. This includes current and future water treatment plant expansions, plant water treatment process improvements, water supply and storage improvements and continuous water system rehabilitation and repair projects.

The Sewer and Water Advisory Board met on September 26, 2012 and after reviewing the Department of Public Utilities projected expenditures for 2013, recommends to City Council an increase of 4% in water rates and no increase to the water capacity charges.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The Division of Power and Water expects an increase of \$5.1 million in water sales revenue.

To amend Chapter 1105 of the Columbus City Codes, 1959, to enact new water rates for the year beginning January 1, 2013, and to repeal the existing Sections being amended.

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to establish new water services rates, effective January 1, 2013, for water service provided by the City of Columbus in order to recover the cost of rendering said water services; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Columbus, Department of Public Utilities Division of Power and Water requests a four percent (4%) increase in water rates for 2013 to pay for necessary ongoing operations and needed improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Columbus, Department of Public Utilities requests that sewer capacity fees not be increased in fiscal year 2013, and

**WHEREAS**, City Council recognizes that increased water rates disproportionately impact low income residents. Low income residents already pay a higher percentage of their household income in utility bills, and this percentage would increase with higher rates; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council finds that continuing a discounted rate for low income users is a recognized method for helping to alleviate the impacts of increased water rates; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sewer and Water Advisory Board has adopted recommendations that are consistent with the rates established in this legislation; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council finds that the rates and the low income discount established therein are equitable to all of the City's customers; now therefore

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:**

**SECTION 1.** That the existing Sections 1105.04 and 1105.041 of the Columbus City Codes, 1959, shall be and are hereby amended effective January 1, 2013 to read as follows:

**1105.04 Residential Inside city water rates.**

The charges for Residential water supplied through meters to consumers within the corporate limits shall be based upon a service charge plus a commodity charge. The following rates shall apply to Residential water services within the city:

**SEE ATTACHED FILE**

**1105.041 Commercial and Industrial Inside city water rates.**

The charges for Commercial and Industrial water supplied through meters to consumers within the corporate limits shall be based upon a service charge plus a commodity charge. The following rates shall apply to Commercial and Industrial water services within the city:

**SEE ATTACHED FILE**

**SECTION 2.** That the existing Section 1105.055 A of the Columbus City Codes, 1959, shall be and is hereby amended effective January 1, 2013 to read as follows:

**1105.055 Outside city mastermetered contract water rates.**

A. For areas covered by wholesale mastermetered contracts: the rates shall be as follows:

**SEE ATTACHED FILE**

**SECTION 3** That water rates herein established shall be applicable to all water used on or after January 1, 2013.

**SECTION 4.** That effective January 1, 2013, existing Section 1105.04; 1105.041 and 1105.055A of the Columbus City Codes, 1959, be and are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 5.** That this Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.