



AN ACT ALLOWING A COUNTY TO PROVIDE A DISTRIBUTION LIST TO A COUNTY WATER AND/OR SEWER DISTRICT TO NOTIFY PROPERTY OWNERS OF A PUBLIC HEARING; ALLOWING A COUNTY TO CHARGE A FEE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION LIST; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 2-6-1017 AND 7-13-2275, MCA.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 2-6-1017, MCA, is amended to read:

"2-6-1017. Prohibition on dissemination or use of distribution lists -- exceptions -- penalties. (1)

Except as provided in subsections (3) through (10), to protect the privacy of those who deal with state and local government:

(a) a public agency may not distribute or sell a distribution list without first securing the permission of those on the list; and

(b) a list of persons prepared by a public agency may not be used as a distribution list except by the public agency or another public agency without first securing the permission of those on the list.

(2) As used in this section, "distribution list" means any list of personal contact information collected by a public agency and used to facilitate unsolicited contact with individuals on the distribution list.

(3) This section does not prevent an individual from compiling a distribution list by examination of records that are otherwise open to public inspection.

(4) This section does not apply to the lists of:

(a) registered electors and the new voter lists provided for in 13-2-115;

(b) the names of employees governed by Title 39, chapter 31;

(c) persons holding driver's licenses or Montana identification cards provided for under 61-5-127;

(d) persons holding professional or occupational licenses governed by Title 37, chapters 1 through 4,

6 through 20, 22 through 29, 31, 34 through 36, 40, 47, 48, 50, 51, 53, 54, 60, 65 through 69, 72, and 73, and Title 50, chapters 39, 72, 74, and 76;

(e) persons who own property in a county water and/or sewer district provided for in 7-13-2275(4)(d);

or

~~(e)~~(f) persons certified as claims examiners under 39-71-320.

(5) This section does not prevent an agency from providing a list to persons providing prelicensing or continuing education courses subject to state law or subject to Title 33, chapter 17.

(6) This section does not apply to the right of access by Montana law enforcement agencies.

(7) This section does not apply to the secretary of state's electronic filing system developed pursuant to 2-15-404 and containing corporate and uniform commercial code information.

(8) This section does not apply to the use by the public employees' retirement board of a list of board-administered retirement system participants to send materials on behalf of a retiree organization formed for board-administered retirement system participants and with tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, for a fee determined by rules of the board, provided that the list is not released to the organization.

(9) This section does not apply to lists of individuals who sign attendance sheets or sign-in sheets at a hearing or meeting of a public agency.

(10) This section does not apply to a public school providing lists of graduating students to representatives of the armed forces of the United States or to the national guard for the purposes of recruitment.

(11) A person violating the provisions of subsection (1)(b) is guilty of a misdemeanor."

Section 2. Section 7-13-2275, MCA, is amended to read:

"7-13-2275. Procedure relating to ordinances and resolutions -- rates, fees, and charges established. (1) The ayes and noes must be taken upon the passage of all ordinances or resolutions and entered upon the journal of the proceedings of the board of directors. An ordinance or resolution may not be passed or become effective without the affirmative votes of at least a majority of the total members of the board.

(2) The enacting clause of all ordinances passed by the board must be in these words: "Be it ordained by the board of directors of _____ district as follows:"

(3) All resolutions and ordinances must be signed by the president of the board and attested by the secretary.

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsections (5) and (6), prior to the passage or enactment of an ordinance or resolution imposing, establishing, changing, or increasing rates, fees, or charges for services or facilities, the board shall order a public hearing.

(b) Notice of the public hearing must be published as provided in 7-1-2121. The published notice must contain:

(i) the date, time, and place of the hearing;

(ii) a brief statement of the proposed action; and

(iii) the address and telephone number of a person who may be contacted for further information regarding the hearing.

(c) The notice must also be mailed to all persons who own property in the district and to all customers of the district at least 7 days and not more than 30 days prior to the public hearing. The mailed notice must contain an estimate of the amount that the property owner or customer will be charged under the proposed ordinance or resolution.

(d) The county or counties with territory included in the district shall provide to the district a list that includes the addresses of all persons who own property in the district pursuant to the notice requirements provided in subsection (4)(c). The county or counties may assess the district a fee not to exceed a total of \$50 for the development and distribution of the list provided for in this subsection (4)(d).

~~(d)~~(e) Any interested person, corporation, or company may be present, represented by counsel, and testify at the hearing.

~~(e)~~(f) The hearing may be continued by the board as necessary. After the public hearing, the board may, by resolution, impose, establish, change, or increase rates, fees, or charges.

(5) A public hearing is not required for a cumulative rate increase of less than or equal to 5% within a 12-month period if the board provides notification of the increase to persons within the district on whom the rate will be imposed at least 10 days prior to the passage or enactment of the ordinance or resolution implementing

the increase.

(6) (a) If the establishment of or change in rates, fees, or charges proposed by a regional authority requires the authority to hold a public hearing pursuant to 75-6-326 and requires an increase to the rates, fees, or charges imposed by the district greater than the increase provided in subsection (5) of this section, the board shall:

(i) mail notice of the public hearing to be held by the authority to all customers of the district system at least 15 days prior to the public hearing; and

(ii) provide notification of the change to customers of the district system on whom the increased rates, fees, or charges will be imposed at least 10 days prior to the passage or enactment of the ordinance or resolution implementing the increase.

(b) The district is not required to hold a public hearing on the increase."

Section 3. Coordination instruction. If House Bill No. 255 and [this act] are both passed and approved and if both contain a section that amends 7-13-2275, then the sections amending 7-13-2275 are void and 7-13-2275 must be amended as follows:

"7-13-2275. Procedure relating to ordinances and resolutions -- rates, fees, and charges established. (1) ~~The ayes and noes must be taken upon the passage~~ voting record of all ordinances or resolutions ~~and entered upon~~ must be entered in the journal of the proceedings of the board of directors. An ordinance or resolution may not be passed or become effective without the affirmative votes of at least a majority of the total members of the board.

(2) The enacting clause of all ordinances passed by the board must be in these words: "Be it ordained by the board of directors of _____ district as follows:"

(3) All resolutions and ordinances must be signed by the president of the board and attested by the secretary.

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsections (5) and (6), prior to the passage or enactment of an ordinance or resolution imposing, establishing, changing, or increasing rates, fees, or charges for services or facilities, the board shall order a public hearing.

(b) Notice of the public hearing must be published as provided in 7-1-2121. The published notice must

contain:

- (i) the date, time, and place of the hearing;
- (ii) a brief statement of the proposed action; and
- (iii) the address and telephone number of a person who may be contacted for further information

regarding the hearing.

(c) The notice must contain an estimate of the amount that the property owner or customer will be charged under the proposed ordinance or resolution and must also be:

(i) posted to a website operated by the district or, if the district does not operate a website, posted to a website operated by the county or city with territory within the district; or

(ii) mailed to all persons who own property in the district and to all customers of the district at least 7 days and not more than 30 days prior to the public hearing. The mailed notice must contain an estimate of the amount that the property owner or customer will be charged under the proposed ordinance or resolution.

(d) If the district sends the notice by mail as provided in subsection (4)(c)(ii), The county or counties with territory included in the district shall provide to the district a list that includes the addresses of all persons who own property in the district pursuant to the notice requirements provided in subsection (4)(c)(ii). The county or counties may assess the district a fee not to exceed a total of \$50 for the development and distribution of the list provided for in this subsection (4)(d).

~~(d)(e)~~ Any interested person, corporation, or company may be present, represented by counsel, and testify at the hearing.

~~(e)(f)~~ The hearing may be continued by the board as necessary. After the public hearing, the board may, by resolution, impose, establish, change, or increase rates, fees, or charges.

(5) A public hearing is not required for a cumulative rate increase of less than or equal to 5% within a 12-month period if the board provides notification of the increase to persons within the district on whom the rate will be imposed at least 10 days prior to the passage or enactment of the ordinance or resolution implementing the increase.

(6) (a) If the establishment of or change in rates, fees, or charges proposed by a regional authority requires the authority to hold a public hearing pursuant to 75-6-326 and requires an increase to the rates, fees, or charges imposed by the district greater than the increase provided in subsection (5) of this section, the board

shall:

(i) mail notice of the public hearing to be held by the authority to all customers of the district system at least 15 days prior to the public hearing; and

(ii) provide notification of the change to customers of the district system on whom the increased rates, fees, or charges will be imposed at least 10 days prior to the passage or enactment of the ordinance or resolution implementing the increase.

(b) The district is not required to hold a public hearing on the increase."

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
SB 403, originated in the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2021.

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2021.

SENATE BILL NO. 403

INTRODUCED BY B. KEENAN

AN ACT ALLOWING A COUNTY TO PROVIDE A DISTRIBUTION LIST TO A COUNTY WATER AND/OR SEWER DISTRICT TO NOTIFY PROPERTY OWNERS OF A PUBLIC HEARING; ALLOWING A COUNTY TO CHARGE A FEE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION LIST; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 2-6-1017 AND 7-13-2275, MCA.