1	UTILITY COSTS TO HOMEOWNER
2	2003 GENERAL SESSION
3	STATE OF UTAH
4	Sponsor: Steven R. Mascaro
5	This act modifies the Utah Municipal Code to prohibit a municipality from refusing to
6	furnish water to property based on an arrearage from a previous owner or from
7	collecting a previous owner's arrearage from the current owner. The act also makes
8	technical changes.
9	This act affects sections of Utah Code Annotated 1953 as follows:
10	AMENDS:
11	10-8-38, as last amended by Chapter 365, Laws of Utah 1999
12	ENACTS:
13	10-7-10.5, Utah Code Annotated 1953
14	REPEALS:
15	10-7-10 , Utah Code Annotated 1953
16	10-7-11 , Utah Code Annotated 1953
17	Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:
18	Section 1. Section 10-7-10.5 is enacted to read:
19	<u>10-7-10.5.</u> Authority to require written application for water service and to
20	terminate service for failure to pay Limitations.
21	(1) A municipality that owns or controls a system for furnishing water may:
22	(a) before furnishing water to a property, require the property owner or an authorized
23	agent to submit a written application, signed by the owner or an authorized agent, agreeing to
24	pay for all water furnished to the property, whether occupied by the owner or by a tenant or
25	other occupant, according to the ordinances, rules, and regulations adopted by the municipality;
26	and
27	(b) if an owner fails to pay for water furnished to the owner's property, discontinue

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28	furnishing water to the property until all amounts for water furnished are paid, subject to
29	Subsection (2).
30	(2) (a) A municipality may not use an owner's failure to pay for water furnished to the
31	owner's property as a basis for not furnishing water to the property after ownership of the
32	property is transferred to a subsequent owner.
33	(b) A municipality may not require an owner to pay for water that was furnished to the
34	property before the owner's ownership.
35	Section 2. Section 10-8-38 is amended to read:
36	10-8-38. Drainage and sewage systems Construction regulation and control
37	Retainage Mandatory hookup Charges for use Collection of charges Service to
38	tenants Failure to pay for service Service outside municipality.
39	(1) (a) Boards of commissioners, city councils, and boards of trustees of cities and
40	towns may construct, reconstruct, maintain, and operate, sewer systems, sewage treatment
41	plants, culverts, drains, sewers, catch basins, manholes, cesspools, and all systems, equipment,
42	and facilities necessary to the proper drainage, sewage, and sanitary sewage disposal
43	requirements of the city or town and regulate the construction and use thereof.
44	(b) If any payment on a contract with a private person, firm, or corporation to construct
45	or reconstruct sewer systems, sewage treatment plants, culverts, drains, sewers, catch basins,
46	manholes, cesspools, and other drainage and sewage systems is retained or withheld, it shall be
47	retained or withheld and released as provided in Section 13-8-5.
48	(2) (a) [Any city or town may, for the purpose of defraying] In order to defray the cost
49	of [construction, reconstruction, maintenance or operation of any] constructing, reconstructing,
50	maintaining, or operating a sewer system or sewage treatment plant, [provide for mandatory
51	hookup where] a municipality may:
52	(i) require connection to the sewer system if the sewer is available and within 300 feet
53	of [any] the property line of a property with [any] a building used for human occupancy; and
54	(ii) make a reasonable charge for the use [thereof. In order to enforce the mandatory
55	hookup to the sewer where available and the collection of any such charge, any city or town] of
56	the sewer system.
57	(b) A municipality operating a waterworks system and a sewer system or sewage
58	treatment plant may:

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59 (i) make one charge for the combined use of water and the services of the sewer 60 system , including the services of any or sewage treatment plant operated by the city or town and may provide by]; and 61 62 (ii) adopt an ordinance [that application for service from such combined system shall 63 be made in writing, signed by the] requiring a property owner desiring [such] water and sewer 64 service [or his authorized agent, in which] to submit a written application [such owner shall 65 agree that he will], signed by the owner or the owner's authorized agent, agreeing to pay, 66 according to the ordinance enacted by the municipality, for [all] the water and sewer service 67 furnished [such] the owner [according to the rules and regulations enacted in the ordinance of 68 such city or town]. 69 [(b) In case an application for furnishing service from such combined systems shall be 70 made by a tenant of the owner, such city or town may require as a condition of granting the 71 same that such application contain an agreement signed by the owner or his duly authorized 72 agent to the effect that in consideration of granting such application the owner will pay for all 73 service furnished such tenant or any other occupant of the premises named in the application in 74 case such tenant or occupant shall fail to pay for the same according to the ordinance of such city or town.] 75 76 [(c) In case any person shall fail to hookup] 77 (c) (i) If a person fails to connect to the sewer [where available and in case any 78 applicant shall fail] when connection is required under Subsection (2)(a)(i) or fails to pay for 79 the sewer service [furnished according to the rules and regulations prescribed by the] as 80 required under applicable municipal ordinances [of such city or town], then the [city or town] 81 municipality may cause the water to be shut off from [such] the premises [and shall not be 82 required to turn the same on again] until [such] the person has: 83 (A) hooked up to the sewer at [his] the person's own expense; or [all arrears for service 84 furnished shall be] (B) paid in full for all sewer service. 85 86 [(d) Cities and towns] 87 (ii) A municipality may not use an owner's failure to pay for sewer service furnished to 88 the owner's property as a basis for not furnishing water to the property after ownership of the 89 property is transferred to a subsequent owner.

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90	(iii) A municipality may not require an owner to pay for sewer service that was
91	furnished to the property before the owner's ownership.
92	(d) A municipality may sell and deliver [from the surplus capacity thereof,] water or
93	sewer services [of any such system or facility not required by the municipality or its
94	inhabitants] to others beyond the limits of the municipality from the surplus capacity of the
95	municipality's waterworks or sewer system.
96	Section 3. Repealer.
97	This act repeals:
98	Section 10-7-10, Water rates Owner of premises liable.
99	Section 10-7-11, Failure to pay for service Termination.

Legislative Review Note as of 2-6-03 7:32 AM

A limited legal review of this legislation raises no obvious constitutional or statutory concerns.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

State Impact

No fiscal impact.

Individual and Business Impact

No fiscal impact.

Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst