

Senate Local Government Committee



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HB 66 – PN 845 (Godshall)

SYNOPSIS:

Amends Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) to prohibit the acquisition, sale or transfer of water or sewer infrastructure by a municipal authority unless the authority has discussed the anticipated or projected public benefit of the transaction at a public meeting.

SUMMARY:

This legislation amends Section 5613(b) of Title 53 to prohibit an acquisition by a municipal authority unless the authority has previously discussed the acquisition at a public meeting and the written minutes of the meeting contain details relating to the anticipated or public benefit of the acquisition.

The legislation also adds a new subsection that prohibits a sale or transfer of a municipal authority's water or sewer infrastructure unless the authority has previously discussed the sale or transfer at a public meeting and the written minutes of the meeting contain details relating to the anticipated or projected public benefit of the acquisition.

The term "public benefit" as used in this section may include a rate reduction, improved service quality, improved service reliability or other clearly defined benefit to a ratepayer of the authority.

- *A02355 – Amends Section 5613 (b) by clarifying that the term "public benefit" may also include rate stabilization or an action resulting from an agreement with a Federal or State regulatory agency. Amends Section 5612 (b) to provide an authority 180 days from the end of its fiscal year to file its annual report with DCED.*

Effective Date: 60 days.

BILL HISTORY:

Passed House 3/30/2015