

UTILITIES CODE

CHAPTER 182

SUBCHAPTER b. DISCLOSURE OF CUSTOMER INFORMATION

Section 182.052 DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

(a) Except as provided by Section 182.054, a government-operated utility may not disclose personal information in a customer's account record, or any information relating to the volume or units of utility usage or the amounts billed to or collected from the individual for utility usage, unless the customer requests that the government-operated utility disclose the information.

(b) A customer may request disclosure of information described by Subsection (a) by delivering to the government-operated utility an appropriately marked form provided under Subsection (c) (2) or any other written request for disclosure.

(c) A government-operated utility shall include with a bill sent to each customer or shall post on the utility's Internet website:

(1) a notice of the customer's right to request disclosure under this section and a form by which the customer may request disclosure by marking an appropriate box on the form and returning it to the government-operated utility, either by mail or electronically.

(d) A customer may rescind a request for disclosure under this section by providing the government-operated utility a written request to withhold the customer's personal information beginning on the date the utility receives the request.

Section 5. Section 13.043 (b-2), Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b-2) Unless a ratepayer has requested that a municipally owned utility disclose the ratepayer's personal information under Section 182.052, Utilities Code, the municipally owned utility may not disclose the address of the ratepayer under Subsection (b-1) (2).

Sec. 182.054. EXCEPTIONS. This subchapter does not prohibit a government-operated utility from disclosing personal information in a customer's account record to:

(1) an official or employee of the state, a political subdivision of the state, or the United States acting in an official capacity;

(2) an employee of a utility acting in connection with the employee's duties;

(3) a consumer reporting agency;

(4) a contractor or subcontractor approved by and providing services to the utility, the state, a political subdivision of the state, or the United States;

(5) a person for whom the customer has contractually waived confidentiality for personal information; or

(6) another entity that provides water, wastewater, sewer, gas, garbage, electricity, or drainage service for compensation.