

The FCC has made it clear that apartment complexes [can't force residents](#) to use a specific cable company, but Amy Davis at KPRC in Houston reports that there's a [sneaky way to get around this restriction](#). The residents of one Houston apartment complex don't *have* to go with the building's chosen provider, but if they opt out they'll have to pay an extra \$40 per month for trash and water.

Davis writes that the residents of the complex received a notice "late last year" from the management company:

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It reads the complex "has teamed up with a cable company to bring you an exclusive offer that will allow you to enjoy expanded basic service at a greatly reduced rate."

The couple who sent me the letter say they don't want the complex to choose their cable company; perhaps they don't want cable at all.

The problem lies in the next line of the letter.

"If you have not yet chosen to opt in, the reduced rate of \$40 will be added to your water and trash bill once your renewal takes effect."

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Davis says the concept is called bulk billing, and it's legal