

By: Turner

H.B. No. 4118

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to service provided to residential customers by certain
3 gas utilities during weather emergencies; authorizing a civil
4 penalty.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 104, Utilities Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 104.259 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 104.259. PROVISION OF ADEQUATE SERVICE DURING EXTREME
9 WEATHER EMERGENCY. (a) In this section, "extreme weather
10 emergency" has the meaning assigned by Section 104.258.

11 (b) The regulatory authority shall require gas utilities,
12 as defined by Sections 101.003 and 121.001, that serve residential
13 customers to provide an adequate amount of pipeline pressure in
14 distribution gas pipeline facilities that serve those customers
15 during an extreme weather emergency.

16 (c) If a gas utility violates Subsection (b) for at least
17 six consecutive hours, the regulatory authority shall require the
18 gas utility to provide to each affected residential customer a \$100
19 rebate for each consecutive six-hour period in which the violation
20 continued.

21 SECTION 2. Section 105.023, Utilities Code, is amended by
22 adding Subsection (b-2) to read as follows:

23 (b-2) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), a civil penalty under
24 this section shall be in the amount of \$1 million for each violation

1 of Section 104.259. A municipality may file a suit to recover the
2 civil penalty if the gas utility or affiliate in violation of
3 Section 104.259 is regulated by the municipality.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.