

By: Geren

H.B. No. 5066

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the criteria for determining the electric need for certain transmission projects.

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

SECTION 1. Section 37.056, Utilities Code, is amended by amending Subsections (c)(4)(F) to read as follows:

(F) ~~to the extent applicable, the effect of granting the certificate on the ability of this state to meet the goal established by Section 39.904(a) of this title~~ the need to extend transmission service into regions where existing and projected load, as defined in (c-1) of this section, is or will be underserved, including areas where existing transmission service is unreasonably remote, available capacity is unreasonably limited at transmission or distribution voltage, or load cannot be timely interconnected.

SECTION 2. Section 37.056, Utilities Code, is amended by amending Subsection (c-1) to read as follow:

(c-1) In considering the need for additional service under Subsection (c)(2) for a reliability transmission project that serves the ERCOT power region, the commission must consider the historical load, forecasted load growth, and ~~additional~~ load currently seeking interconnection as determined by the utility certificated to serve the load, which may include load that has not yet signed an interconnection agreement.

1 Section 3. Chapter 39, Utilities Code, is amended by adding
2 Subsection 39.161 to read as follows:

3 39.161. Regions with Rapid Customer Demand Growth. If the
4 commission identifies a region of the state where transmission
5 capacity is insufficient to serve existing and projected load, as
6 reasonably determined by the certificated utility, it shall develop
7 and implement a plan to reliably serve forecasted customer demand
8 in a timely manner. Such a plan shall include considerations to
9 ensure timely planning and approval of necessary transmission
10 improvements. The commission shall develop a plan under this
11 section for the Permian Basin region no later than January 30, 2024.

12 Section 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.