

By: Perry
(Tepper)

S.B. No. 1170

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the initiation of customer choice by municipally owned
3 utilities that provide electric service.

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

5 SECTION 1. Sections 40.053(c), (d), and (e), Utilities
6 Code, are amended to read as follows:

7 (c) On its initiation of customer choice, a municipally
8 owned utility may [~~shall~~] designate itself or one or more other
9 entities [~~another entity~~] as the provider or providers of last
10 resort for customers within the municipally owned utility's
11 certificated service area as that area existed on the date of the
12 utility's initiation of customer choice. The municipally owned
13 utility shall fulfill the role of default provider of last resort in
14 the event no other entity is available to act in that capacity if
15 the municipally owned utility continues to sell electric energy to
16 retail customers after the initiation of customer choice. The
17 municipally owned utility may delegate the authority to designate
18 the provider or providers of last resort to the commission.

19 (d) If a customer is unable to obtain service from a retail
20 electric provider or a municipally owned utility or electric
21 cooperative offering customer choice, on request by the customer,
22 the applicable provider of last resort shall offer the customer the
23 standard retail service package for the appropriate customer class,
24 with no interruption of service, at a fixed, nondiscountable rate

1 that is at least sufficient to cover the reasonable costs of
2 providing that service, as approved by the governing body of the
3 municipally owned utility that has the authority to set rates. If a
4 provider of last resort is designated by the commission, the
5 commission may set the rate each provider of last resort may charge.

6 (e) The governing body of a municipally owned utility may
7 establish the procedures and criteria for designating a ~~[the]~~
8 provider of last resort and may redesignate a ~~[the]~~ provider of last
9 resort according to a schedule it considers appropriate. If the
10 municipally owned utility delegates authority to the commission
11 under Subsection (c), the commission is not required to comply with
12 procedures or criteria adopted by the municipally owned utility.

13 SECTION 2. Section 40.057(c), Utilities Code, is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (c) A municipally owned utility that opts for customer
16 choice and does not sell electric energy to retail customers is not
17 required to bill directly for distribution, transmission, and
18 generation services provided to retail electric customers located
19 in its certificated service area. A retail electric provider may
20 provide billing services for distribution, transmission, and
21 generation services provided to those customers. [A customer that
22 ~~is being provided wires service by a municipally owned utility at~~
23 ~~distribution or transmission voltage and that is served by a retail~~
24 ~~electric provider for retail service has the option of being billed~~
25 ~~directly by each service provider or to receive a single bill for~~
26 ~~distribution, transmission, and generation services from the~~
27 ~~municipally owned utility.]~~

1 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.