

Amend CSSB 1952 by inserting a new appropriately numbered SECTION of the bill to read as follows and by renumbering subsequent SECTIONS accordingly:

SECTION _____. Subchapter C, Chapter 105, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Section 105.052 to read as follows:

Sec. 105.052. REIMBURSEMENT OF REASONABLE COSTS. (a) To the extent the regulatory authority determines the costs are reasonable, a gas utility shall reimburse the costs of an affected person or a state agency or municipality that is a party to a proceeding that results from a complaint filed against the utility under Section 105.051 if the affected person or party is wholly or partially successful in prosecuting the complaint before a regulatory authority or a court.

(b) Costs for which an affected person or a state agency or municipality may receive reimbursement under this section include any reasonable expenses related to the investigation, preparation, and prosecution of the complaint, including the reasonable costs of consultants, accountants, auditors, attorneys, and engineers.

(c) For purposes of this section, an affected person or a state agency or municipality may recover reasonable costs not yet paid because payment has been deferred pending a determination of reasonableness by the regulatory authority.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, a gas utility may not recover any amounts paid as reimbursement under this section as or through a charge to the utility's customers.