

Amend CSHB 1779 by adding the following appropriately numbered SECTION to the bill and renumbering subsequent SECTIONS of the bill as appropriate:

SECTION __. Subchapter A, Chapter 17, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Sections 17.008 and 17.009 to read as follows:

Sec. 17.008. PROTECTION OF RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC SERVICE APPLICANTS AND CUSTOMERS. (a) In this section and in Section 17.009:

(1) "Credit history":

(A) means information regarding an individual's past history of:

(i) financial responsibility;

(ii) payment habits; or

(iii) creditworthiness; and

(B) does not include an individual's outstanding balance for retail electric or telecommunications service.

(2) "Credit score" means a score, grade, or value that is derived by a consumer reporting agency, as defined under Section 603(f) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. Section 1681a(f)), using data from a credit history in any type of model, method, or program for the purpose of grading or ranking credit report data, whether derived electronically, from an algorithm, through a computer software application model or program, or through any other analogous process.

(3) "Utility payment data" means a measure that is derived by a consumer reporting agency, as defined under Section 603(f) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. Section 1681a(f)), from a model specifically designed to correlate to utility payment histories.

(b) A retail electric provider may not deny an applicant's request to become a residential electric service customer on the basis of the applicant's credit history or credit score, but may use the applicant's utility payment data until the later of January 1, 2007, or the date on which the price to beat is no longer in effect in the geographic area in which the customer is located.

(c) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), while a retail electric provider is required to provide service to a geographic area as the

affiliated retail electric provider, the provider may not deny an applicant's request to become a residential electric service customer within that geographic area on the basis of the applicant's credit history, credit score, or utility payment data.

(d) After the date described in Subsection (b), a retail electric provider, including an affiliated retail electric provider, may not deny an applicant's request to become a residential electric service customer on the basis of the applicant's credit history, credit score, or utility payment data but may use the applicant's electric bill payment history.

(e) A retail electric provider may not use a credit score, a credit history, or utility payment data as the basis for determining the price for month-to-month electric service or electric service that includes a fixed price commitment of 12 months or less:

(1) for an existing residential customer; or

(2) in response to an applicant's request to become a residential electric service customer.

(f) After the date described in Subsection (b), on request by a customer or former customer in this state, a retail electric provider or electric utility shall timely provide to the customer or former customer bill payment history information with the retail electric provider or electric utility during the preceding 12-month period. Bill payment history information may be obtained by the customer or former customer once during each 12-month period without charge. If additional copies of bill payment history information are requested during a 12-month period, the electric service provider may charge the customer or former customer a reasonable fee for each copy.

(g) On request by a retail electric provider, another retail electric provider or electric utility shall timely verify information that purports to show a customer's service and bill payment history with the retail electric provider or electric utility.

(h) This section does not limit a retail electric provider's authority to require a deposit or advance payment as a condition of service.

(i) Notwithstanding Subsection (e), a retail electric provider may provide rewards, benefits, or credits to residential electric service customers on the basis of the customer's payment history for retail electric service to that provider.

Sec. 17.009. PROTECTION OF RESIDENTIAL TELEPHONE SERVICE APPLICANTS AND CUSTOMERS. (a) A provider of basic local telecommunications services and nonbasic network services may not deny an applicant's request to become a residential customer on the basis of the applicant's credit history or credit score.

(b) A provider of basic local telecommunications services and nonbasic network services may not use a credit score or credit history as the basis for determining price for service:

(1) for an existing residential customer; or

(2) in response to an applicant's request to become a residential customer.

(c) This section does not limit the authority of a provider of basic local telecommunications services and nonbasic network services to require a deposit, advance payment, or credit limit as a condition of service.