

By: Miller

H.B. No. 1677

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the prohibition of recovering attorney's fees and costs from natural gas utility customers in certain rate proceedings.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 104, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Section 104.0585 to read as follows:

Sec. 104.0585. PROHIBITION OF RECOVERY OF ATTORNEY'S FEES; COSTS. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, a court or a regulatory authority may not award to a party the right to recover from a gas utility customer, or otherwise include for ratemaking purposes, the party's attorney's fees or other costs incurred in a proceeding that establishes rates for the provision of natural gas services to any customer or class of customers.

SECTION 2. Section 104.0585, Utilities Code, as added by this Act, applies only to a proceeding initiated on or after the effective date of this Act. A proceeding initiated before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect immediately before that date, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.