

By: Ortiz, Jr.

H.B. No. 1958

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to allowing a customer to interconnect a renewable energy  
3 system to a utility's electric transmission and distribution  
4 system.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 35, Utilities Code, is amended by adding  
7 Subchapter E to read as follows:

8 SUBCHAPTER E. INTERCONNECTION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEM

9 Sec. 35.151. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

10 (1) "Customer-generator" means an owner of a renewable  
11 energy system that is interconnected to an electric utility's,  
12 municipally owned utility's, or electric cooperative's electric  
13 transmission and distribution system.

14 (2) "Net meter" means a meter that measures the  
15 difference between the electricity supplied to the customer and the  
16 electricity generated by a customer and fed back to the electric  
17 utility, municipally owned utility, or electric cooperative.

18 (3) "Renewable energy system" means a device that  
19 meets the standards established by rule under Section 35.154 and  
20 that uses solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal, or biomass  
21 resources to generate electricity.

22 Sec. 35.152. INTERCONNECTION. An electric utility,  
23 municipally owned utility, or electric cooperative shall allow a  
24 renewable energy system to be interconnected using a net energy

1 meter.

2 Sec. 35.153. APPLICATION FOR INTERCONNECTION. A customer  
3 may request interconnection by filing an application for  
4 interconnection. An electric utility, municipally owned utility,  
5 or electric cooperative shall prioritize and fulfill an  
6 interconnection request before any other new load request.

7 Sec. 35.154. RULES. The commission by rule shall establish  
8 safety, technical, and performance standards for renewable energy  
9 systems and the interconnection of a renewable energy system to an  
10 electric transmission and distribution system.

11 Sec. 35.155. PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN PREREQUISITES. An  
12 electric utility, municipally owned utility, or electric  
13 cooperative may not require a customer-generator whose renewable  
14 energy system meets the standards established by rule adopted under  
15 Section 35.154 to purchase additional liability insurance as a  
16 prerequisite of interconnection.

17 Sec. 35.156. CREDIT FOR GENERATION. (a) An electric  
18 utility, retail electric provider, municipally owned utility, or  
19 electric cooperative may charge the customer-generator for the net  
20 electricity supplied during the billing period only if the amount  
21 of electricity supplied exceeds the amount of electricity provided  
22 by the customer-generator.

23 (b) An electric utility, retail electric provider,  
24 municipally owned utility, or electric cooperative shall apply a  
25 credit at the avoided cost rate to the account of the  
26 customer-generator if the amount of electricity provided by a  
27 customer-generator during the billing period exceeds the amount of

1 electricity used.

2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.