

By: Pitts

H.B. No. 3255

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to authority of an electric cooperative to use unclaimed
3 money to assist low-income customers in paying their electric
4 bills.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 74, Property Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 74.3014 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 74.3014. DELIVERY OF MONEY FOR ELECTRIC BILL
9 ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME CUSTOMERS. (a) In this section,
10 "electric cooperative" has the meaning assigned by Section 11.003,
11 Utilities Code.

12 (b) Notwithstanding and in addition to any other provision
13 of this chapter or other law, an electric cooperative may deliver
14 reported money to a fund established by the cooperative to assist
15 low-income customers in paying their electric bills instead of
16 delivering the money to the comptroller as prescribed in Section
17 74.301.

18 (c) An electric cooperative shall file with the comptroller
19 a verification of money delivered under this section that complies
20 with Section 74.302.

21 (d) A claim for money delivered under this section must be
22 filed with the electric cooperative that delivered the money. The
23 electric cooperative shall pay the claim if the cooperative
24 determines in good faith that the claim is valid. A person

1 aggrieved by a claim decision may file a suit against the
2 cooperative in a district court in a county in which the cooperative
3 is located in accordance with Section 74.506.

4 (e) The comptroller shall prescribe forms and procedures
5 governing this section, including forms and procedures relating to:

- 6 (1) notice of presumed abandoned property;
7 (2) delivery of reported money to the fund; and
8 (3) filing of a claim.

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