

By: Puente

H.B. No. 3644

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to designation of certain customer bill payment assistance
3 program costs as an expense of operation that is a first lien
4 against revenue securing certain public securities or obligations.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 1502.056(a), Government Code, is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 (a) If the revenue of a utility system, park, or swimming
9 pool secures the payment of public securities issued or obligations
10 incurred under this chapter, each expense of operation and
11 maintenance, including all salaries, labor, materials, interest,
12 repairs and extensions necessary to provide efficient service, and
13 each proper item of expense, is a first lien against that revenue.
14 The first lien against the revenue of an electric or gas utility
15 system that secures the payment of public securities issued or
16 obligations incurred under this chapter also applies to funding, as
17 a necessary operations expense, for a bill payment assistance
18 program for utility system customers who have been threatened with
19 disconnection from service for nonpayment of bills and who have
20 been determined by the municipality to be low-income customers.

21 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

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1 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.