

By: Merritt

H.B. No. 3818

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the creation, operation, and funding of the
3 Texas-Louisiana border region economic development steering
4 committee.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 2056, Government Code, is amended by
7 adding Section 2056.012 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 2056.012. STRATEGIC PLAN FOR TEXAS-LOUISIANA BORDER
9 REGION. (a) In this section:

10 (1) "Committee" means the Texas-Louisiana border
11 region economic development steering committee.

12 (2) "Texas-Louisiana border region" has the meaning
13 assigned by Section 2056.002.

14 (b) The committee consists of:

15 (1) the county judges of the five most populous
16 counties in the Texas-Louisiana border region; and

17 (2) the county judge of any other county in the
18 Texas-Louisiana border region, if the commissioners court elects to
19 join the committee.

20 (c) The committee shall select from its members a presiding
21 officer, an assistant presiding officer, and a secretary.

22 (d) The committee shall develop a strategic plan for the
23 economic development of the Texas-Louisiana border region, in the
24 same manner as a state agency is required by this chapter to make a

1 strategic plan for its operation.

2 SECTION 2. Section 36.354, Utilities Code, is amended by
3 amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (h) to read as
4 follows:

5 (c) An electric utility, municipally owned utility, or
6 electric cooperative may assess a surcharge to all of the utility's
7 retail customers in the state. Except as provided by Subsection
8 (h), the surcharge must be used to recover the difference in revenue
9 between the revenues from the discounted rate for military bases
10 provided under Subsection (a) and the base commercial rate. This
11 subsection does not apply to an electric utility, municipally owned
12 utility, or electric cooperative that was providing electric
13 service to a military base on December 31, 2002, at a rate
14 constituting a discount of 20 percent or more from the utility's
15 base commercial rate that the utility would otherwise charge the
16 military base.

17 (h) Money collected from a surcharge paid by a retail
18 customer located in a county in the Texas-Louisiana border region,
19 as defined by Section 2056.002, Government Code, shall be used for
20 purposes of the Texas-Louisiana border region economic development
21 steering committee. The commission shall by rule provide for the
22 remission of the money to committee.

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