

By: Coleman

H.B. No. 3381

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the regulation of the maintenance of telephone and electric utility poles.

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

SECTION 1. Title 5, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Chapter 252 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 252. UTILITY POLE SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE

Sec. 252.001. MAINTENANCE OF UTILITY POLES. (a) An

electric utility or telecommunications utility shall inspect:

(1) each wooden transmission pole in the utility's service area for damage every two years;

(2) each wooden distribution pole in the utility's service area for damage every eight years; and

(3) transmission circuits each year.

(b) On discovery of a damaged transmission or distribution pole, an electric utility or telecommunications utility shall replace the damaged pole with a metal pole.

(c) An electric utility or telecommunications utility shall ensure that each utility pole located near a critical structure is a metal pole.

(d) An electric utility or telecommunications utility shall perform:

(1) an annual visual inspection of the utility's transmission system;

1 (2) an annual infrared scan of the utility's
2 transmission system;

3 (3) an annual inspection of each distribution circuit;
4 and

5 (4) every five years, an inspection of the utility's
6 distribution system.

7 (e) An electric utility or telecommunications utility shall
8 establish a vegetation management cycle for the clearing of trees,
9 tree limbs, and other vegetative growth from utility line easements
10 and utility structures:

11 (1) annually, for vegetative growth located near a
12 transmission circuit; and

13 (2) every three years, for vegetative growth located
14 near a distribution line.

15 (f) The commission shall adopt rules to enforce this
16 section.

17 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.