

By: Weber

H.B. No. 4011

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of money in the system benefit fund to purchase advanced meters for low-income customers.

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

SECTION 1. Section 39.903(e), Utilities Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) Money in the system benefit fund may be appropriated to provide funding solely for the following regulatory purposes, in the following order of priority:

(1) programs to:

(A) assist low-income electric customers by providing the 10 percent reduced rate prescribed by Subsection (h); and

(B) provide one-time bill payment assistance to electric customers who are or who have in their households one or more seriously ill or disabled low-income persons and who have been threatened with disconnection for nonpayment;

(2) customer education programs, administrative expenses incurred by the commission in implementing and administering this chapter, and expenses incurred by the office under this chapter;

(3) programs to assist low-income electric customers by providing the targeted energy efficiency programs described by Subsection (f)(2), including programs to provide low-income

1 electric customers with advanced meters;

2 (4) programs to assist low-income electric customers
3 by providing the 20 percent reduced rate prescribed by Subsection
4 (h); and

5 (5) reimbursement to the commission and the Health and
6 Human Services Commission for expenses incurred in the
7 implementation and administration of an integrated eligibility
8 process created under Section 17.007 for customer service discounts
9 relating to retail electric service, including outreach expenses
10 the commission determines are reasonable and necessary.

11 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
15 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.