

By: Lucio III

H.B. No. 4644

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to communications with utility customers.

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

SECTION 1. Section 104.103, Utilities Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 104.103. NOTICE OF INTENT TO INCREASE RATES. (a) The gas utility shall:

(1) publish, in conspicuous form, notice to the public of the proposed increase once each week for four successive weeks in a newspaper having general circulation in each county containing territory affected by the proposed increase; and

(2) provide notice of the proposed increase to any other affected person as required by the regulatory authority's rules.

(b) Instead of publishing newspaper notice, a gas utility may provide notice to the public in an area outside the affected municipality or in a municipality with a population of less than 2,500 by:

(1) mailing the notice by United States mail, postage prepaid, to the billing address of each directly affected customer; ~~or~~

(2) including the notice, in conspicuous form, in the bill of each directly affected customer; or

(3) at the customer's request, sending the notice by

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1 electronic communication to each directly affected customer who has
2 provided the utility with the necessary contact information.

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