

By: Ogden

S.B. No. 681

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the ability of electric utilities to provide electric service during a major power outage.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 38, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Section 38.072 to read as follows:

Sec. 38.072. ELECTRIC SERVICE DURING A MAJOR POWER OUTAGE.

(a) For purposes of this section, "electric utility" includes:

(1) a municipally owned utility; and

(2) an electric cooperative.

(b) The commission shall conduct a study to evaluate whether there is a need in this state for electric utilities to improve their ability to restore electric service to customers after a major power outage that is expected to last for more than 24 hours.

(c) On a determination that there is a need in this state for a particular electric utility to improve its ability to restore electric service to customers after a major power outage, the commission may require the electric utility to maintain:

(1) an additional physical interconnection with another electric utility, regardless of whether the electric utilities operate within the same power region;

(2) an emergency electricity supply agreement with at least one other electric utility; or

(3) a joint restoration procedure with at least one

1 other electric utility.

2 (d) The commission may require an electric utility to
3 provide information regarding:

4 (1) the utility's ability to restore service during a
5 major power outage; and

6 (2) a report regarding the utility's progress in
7 implementing a measure the commission requires under Subsection
8 (c).

9 SECTION 2. Not later than September 1, 2011, the Public
10 Utility Commission of Texas shall submit a report of the results of
11 the study required by Section 38.072, Utilities Code, as added by
12 this Act, to the legislature.

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