

By: Carter

H.B. No. 3669

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the funding for and user friendliness of the website
3 operated by the Public Utility Commission of Texas to provide
4 information regarding the power to choose retail electric
5 providers.

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

7 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that

8 (a) The Public Utility Commission of Texas operates a
9 website regarding the power to choose retail electric providers on
10 which offers by those providers are published;

11 (b) The website is not easily usable and does not provide
12 the transparency necessary for consumers;

13 (c) The State of Texas pays for the website and consumer
14 education of electricity rates that in fiscal year 2010-2011 cost
15 \$750,000;

16 (d) The Legislative Budget Board of Texas has proposed
17 drastic cuts to the budget for the website and consumer education of
18 electricity rates in fiscal year 2012-2013; and

19 (a) Any such cuts may affect a consumer's power to choose
20 retail electric providers.

21 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 39, Utilities Code, is
22 amended by adding Section 39.111 to read as follows:

23 Sec. 39.111. PRIVATIZATION OF THE POWER TO CHOOSE WEBSITE.

24 (a) The Public Utilities Commission of Texas shall

1 privatize the power to choose website at a cost of a minimum of
2 twenty-five percent less than the current cost to the State of Texas
3 and allow a request for proposal for privatization;

4 (b) The Public Utilities Commission of Texas by rule shall
5 prohibit companies that are headquartered outside of the State of
6 Texas or that are owned, operated or controlled by a retail electric
7 provider, as defined by the Public Utilities Commission of Texas,
8 from participating in the request for proposal;

9 (c) The Public Utilities Commission of Texas by rule shall
10 establish additional protocols relating to the request for proposal
11 through which competitive bids will be accepted;

12 (d) The Public Utilities Commission of Texas by rule shall
13 require any request for proposal to bid the redesign of the website
14 to be more user friendly and the redevelopment of the website
15 content and usability that truly benefit a consumer's power to
16 choose;

17 (e) The commission by rule shall establish protocols
18 relating to the frequency with which information posted on the
19 website is updated.

20 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.