

By: Uresti, Van de Putte

S.B. No. 117

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to allowing municipally owned utility systems in certain
3 cities to fund a program to aid low-income residents in paying their
4 bills.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subsection (a), Section 1502.056, Government
7 Code, is amended to read as follows:

8 (a) If the revenue of a utility system, park, or swimming
9 pool secures the payment of public securities issued or obligations
10 incurred under this chapter, each expense of operation and
11 maintenance, including all salaries, labor, materials, interest,
12 repairs and extensions necessary to provide efficient service, and
13 each proper item of expense, is a first lien against that
14 revenue. For a municipality with a population of more than one
15 million but less than two million, the first lien against the
16 revenue of a municipally owned [~~electric or gas~~] utility system
17 that secures the payment of public securities issued or obligations
18 incurred under this chapter also applies to funding, as a necessary
19 operations expense, for a bill payment assistance program for
20 utility system customers who have been threatened with
21 disconnection from service for nonpayment of bills and who have
22 been determined by the municipality to be low-income customers.

23 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.