

By: Uresti

S.B. No. 117

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
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. Section 1502.056(a), Government Code, is amended
7 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, the first lien against the revenue of a municipally owned
16 ~~[electric or gas]~~ utility system that secures the payment of public
17 securities issued or obligations incurred under this chapter also
18 applies to funding, as a necessary operations expense, for a bill
19 payment assistance program for utility system customers who have
20 been threatened with disconnection from service for nonpayment of
21 bills and who have been determined by the municipality to be
22 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.