

1-1 By: Uresti S.B. No. 117  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed November 8, 2010; January 31, 2011,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Intergovernmental  
1-4 Relations; March 17, 2011, reported favorably by the following  
1-5 vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; March 17, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to allowing municipally owned utility systems in certain  
1-9 cities to fund a program to aid low-income residents in paying their  
1-10 bills.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Subsection (a), Section 1502.056, Government  
1-13 Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-14 (a) If the revenue of a utility system, park, or swimming  
1-15 pool secures the payment of public securities issued or obligations  
1-16 incurred under this chapter, each expense of operation and  
1-17 maintenance, including all salaries, labor, materials, interest,  
1-18 repairs and extensions necessary to provide efficient service, and  
1-19 each proper item of expense, is a first lien against that  
1-20 revenue. For a municipality with a population of more than one  
1-21 million, the first lien against the revenue of a municipally owned  
1-22 [~~electric or gas~~] utility system that secures the payment of public  
1-23 securities issued or obligations incurred under this chapter also  
1-24 applies to funding, as a necessary operations expense, for a bill  
1-25 payment assistance program for utility system customers who have  
1-26 been threatened with disconnection from service for nonpayment of  
1-27 bills and who have been determined by the municipality to be  
1-28 low-income customers.

1-29 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
1-30 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
1-31 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
1-32 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
1-33 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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