

By: Van de Putte

S.B. No. 1002

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the designation of program costs for providing bill
3 payment assistance to certain military veterans as a necessary
4 operating expense that is a first lien against revenue of certain
5 electric and gas utilities' revenue securing certain public
6 securities or obligations.

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

8 SECTION 1. Section 1502.056(a), Government Code, is amended
9 to read as follows:

10 (a) If the revenue of a utility system, park, or swimming
11 pool secures the payment of public securities issued or obligations
12 incurred under this chapter, each expense of operation and
13 maintenance, including all salaries, labor, materials, interest,
14 repairs and extensions necessary to provide efficient service, and
15 each proper item of expense, is a first lien against that
16 revenue. For a municipality with a population of more than one
17 million, the first lien against the revenue of a municipally owned
18 electric or gas utility system that secures the payment of public
19 securities issued or obligations incurred under this chapter also
20 applies to funding, as a necessary operations expense, for a bill
21 payment assistance program for utility system customers who:

22 (1) have been threatened with disconnection from
23 service for nonpayment of bills and who have been determined by the
24 municipality to be low-income customers; or

1 (2) are military veterans who have significantly
2 decreased abilities to regulate their bodies' core temperatures
3 because of severe burns received in combat.

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