

1-1 By: Van de Putte S.B. No. 1002
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 28, 2011; March 16, 2011,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Intergovernmental
1-4 Relations; April 11, 2011, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; April 11, 2011, sent to printer.)

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

1-8 relating to the designation of program costs for providing bill
1-9 payment assistance to certain military veterans as a necessary
1-10 operating expense that is a first lien against revenue of certain
1-11 electric and gas utilities' revenue securing certain public
1-12 securities or obligations.

1-13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-14 SECTION 1. Subsection (a), Section 1502.056, Government
1-15 Code, is amended to read as follows:

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

1-28 (1) have been threatened with disconnection from
1-29 service for nonpayment of bills and who have been determined by the
1-30 municipality to be low-income customers; or

1-31 (2) are military veterans who have significantly
1-32 decreased abilities to regulate their bodies' core temperatures
1-33 because of severe burns received in combat.

1-34 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-35 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-36 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-37 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-38 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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