

By: Carona

S.B. No. 1434

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain low-income weatherization programs.

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

SECTION 1. Section 39.905, Utilities Code, is amended by amending Subsection (f) and adding Subsection (f-1) to read as follows:

(f) Unless funding is provided under Section 39.903, each unbundled transmission and distribution utility shall include in its energy efficiency plan a targeted low-income energy efficiency program as described by Section 39.903(f)(2), and the savings achieved by the program shall count toward the transmission and distribution utility's energy efficiency goal. The commission shall determine the appropriate level of funding to be allocated to both targeted and standard offer low-income energy efficiency programs in each unbundled transmission and distribution utility service area. The commission shall ensure that annual [The total] expenditures for the [both] targeted [and standard offer] low-income energy efficiency programs of each unbundled transmission and distribution utility are not less than 15 percent of the transmission and distribution utility's energy efficiency budget for the year [will be based on the amount spent by the transmission and distribution utility on the commission's hard-to-reach program in calendar year 2003]. The [This] level of funding for low-income energy efficiency programs shall be provided

1 from money approved by the commission for the transmission and
2 distribution utility's energy efficiency programs. In a
3 proceeding to establish an energy efficiency cost recovery factor
4 related to expenditures under this subsection, the commission shall
5 make findings of fact regarding whether the utility meets
6 requirements imposed under this subsection. The state agency that
7 administers the federal weatherization assistance program shall
8 provide reports as required by the commission to provide the most
9 current information available on energy and peak demand savings
10 achieved in each transmission and distribution utility service
11 area. The agency shall participate in proceedings to establish an
12 energy efficiency cost recovery factor related to expenditures
13 under this subsection to ensure that targeted low-income
14 weatherization programs are consistent with federal weatherization
15 programs and adequately funded.

16 (f-1) The commission shall issue and publish on the
17 commission's Internet website an annual report that:

18 (1) summarizes by utility the energy efficiency
19 programs, including the costs and savings of each program;

20 (2) identifies by utility the number of residences
21 weatherized under the targeted weatherization program;

22 (3) identifies the total number and percentage of
23 low-income customers within each utility's service territory who
24 are eligible for the targeted weatherization program;

25 (4) compares, on a square-foot basis, the energy
26 savings realized by each utility's low-income customers who receive
27 energy efficiency services to the energy savings realized by other

1 customers of the utility who receive energy efficiency services;
2 (5) identifies each utility's average bill savings
3 realized as a result of the program; and
4 (6) identifies the cost of the program expressed as a
5 percentage of the total cost of each utility's energy efficiency
6 programs.

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