

By: Oliveira, Lucio III

H.B. No. 2538

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the designation of certain customer bill payment
3 assistance program costs as an expense of operation that is a first
4 lien against revenue securing certain public securities or
5 obligations in certain municipalities.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 1502.056, Government Code, is amended by
8 adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

9 (a-1) For a municipality in a county that contains an
10 international border and borders the Gulf of Mexico, the first lien
11 against the revenue of a municipally owned utility system that
12 secures the payment of public securities issued or obligations
13 incurred under this chapter also applies to funding, as a necessary
14 operations expense, for a bill payment assistance program for the
15 utility system's customers who:

16 (1) have received a notice of disconnection from
17 service for nonpayment of bills and who have been determined by the
18 municipality to be low-income customers;

19 (2) are military veterans who have significantly
20 decreased abilities to regulate their bodies' core temperatures
21 because of severe burns received in combat; or

22 (3) are elderly and low-income customers as determined
23 by the municipality.

24 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.