

By: Keffer

H.B. No. 3749

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the recovery of certain natural gas distribution
3 utility ratemaking proceeding expenses; adding provisions subject
4 to a criminal penalty.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 103.021, Utilities Code, is amended by
7 adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

8 (d) In establishing a gas utility's rates under this
9 subchapter, a municipality shall allow a gas utility to recover
10 through its rates on a systemwide basis only, as an operating
11 expense, the gas utility's reasonable and necessary expenses of
12 participating in a proceeding under this subtitle.

13 SECTION 2. Section 103.022(b), Utilities Code, is amended
14 to read as follows:

15 (b) The gas utility in the ratemaking proceeding shall
16 reimburse the governing body of the municipality for the reasonable
17 cost of the services of a person engaged under Subsection (a) to the
18 extent the applicable regulatory authority determines reasonable.
19 For purposes of Section 103.021 or 104.057, the amount paid as
20 reimbursement under this subsection is a reasonable and necessary
21 expense of participating in a proceeding under this subtitle.

22 SECTION 3. Section 104.057, Utilities Code, is amended by
23 adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

24 (c) In establishing a gas utility's rates, the regulatory

1 authority shall allow the gas utility to recover through its rates
2 on a systemwide basis only, as an operating expense, the gas
3 utility's reasonable and necessary expenses of participating in a
4 proceeding under this subtitle.

5 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies only
6 to a rate proceeding in which the initial hearing is held on or
7 after the effective date of this Act. A proceeding in which the
8 initial hearing is held before that date is governed by the law in
9 effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that
10 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

11 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.