

By: Ortega

H.B. No. 382

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority to establish a customer assistance program for certain municipally owned utilities.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 552, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 552.916 to read as follows:

Sec. 552.916. CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN UTILITIES. (a) This section applies only to a board of trustees described by Section 1502.070(a)(2)(B), Government Code.

(b) A board of trustees has the authority to establish a bill payment assistance program for its utility system's customers who have exhausted all private and nonprofit sources of utility assistance. The program must be for customers:

(1) who received notice of disconnection of service for nonpayment of bills; or

(2) who the utility determines are low-income customers.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.