

AN ACT

relating to the deployment of advanced metering and meter information networks in certain areas outside of ERCOT.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter L, Chapter 39, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Section 39.5521 to read as follows:

Sec. 39.5521. METERING. (a) Notwithstanding Section 39.552, an electric utility subject to this subchapter that elects to deploy advanced metering and meter information networks may recover reasonable and necessary costs incurred in deploying advanced metering and meter information networks. An electric utility that elects to deploy advanced metering or meter information networks is subject to commission rules adopted under Sections 39.107(h) and (k). The commission shall ensure that any deployment plan approved under this section and any related customer surcharge:

(1) are not applicable to customer accounts that receive service at transmission voltage; and

(2) are consistent with commission rules related to advanced metering systems regarding:

(A) customer protections;

(B) data security, privacy, and ownership; and

(C) options given consumers to continue to receive service through a non-advanced meter.

1 (b) An electric utility subject to this subchapter that
2 elects to deploy an advanced meter information network shall deploy
3 the network as rapidly as practicable to allow customers to better
4 manage energy use and control costs.

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

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 853 was passed by the House on April 5, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 1, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 853 was passed by the Senate on May 10, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor