

By: Holland

H.B. No. 2591

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a cybersecurity monitor for certain electric utilities.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 36, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Section 36.213 to read as follows:

Sec. 36.213. ADJUSTMENT FOR CYBERSECURITY MONITOR COSTS FOR CERTAIN UTILITIES. (a) This section does not apply to an electric utility that operates solely outside of ERCOT and has not elected to participate in the cybersecurity monitor program under Section 39.1516.

(b) The commission, on its own motion or on the petition of an electric utility, shall allow the electric utility to recover reasonable and necessary costs incurred in connection with activities under Section 39.1516.

SECTION 2. Section 39.002, Utilities Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 39.002. APPLICABILITY. This chapter, other than Sections 39.1516, 39.155, 39.157(e), 39.203, [~~39.903~~] 39.904, 39.9051, 39.9052, and 39.914(e), does not apply to a municipally owned utility or an electric cooperative. Sections 39.157(e), 39.203, and 39.904, however, apply only to a municipally owned utility or an electric cooperative that is offering customer choice. If there is a conflict between the specific provisions of this chapter and any other provisions of this title, except for

1 Chapters 40 and 41, the provisions of this chapter control.

2 SECTION 3. Subchapter D, Chapter 39, Utilities Code, is  
3 amended by adding Section 39.1516 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 39.1516. CYBERSECURITY MONITOR. (a) In this section,  
5 "monitored utility" means:

6 (1) a transmission and distribution utility;

7 (2) a corporation described in Section 32.053;

8 (3) a municipally owned utility or electric  
9 cooperative that owns or operates equipment or facilities in the  
10 ERCOT power region to transmit electricity at 60 or more kilovolts;  
11 or

12 (4) an electric utility, municipally owned utility, or  
13 electric cooperative that operates solely outside the ERCOT power  
14 region that has elected to participate under Subsection (d).

15 (b) The commission and the independent organization  
16 certified under Section 39.151 shall contract with an entity  
17 selected by the commission to act as the commission's cybersecurity  
18 monitor to:

19 (1) manage a comprehensive cybersecurity outreach  
20 program for monitored utilities;

21 (2) meet regularly with monitored utilities to discuss  
22 emerging threats, best business practices, and training  
23 opportunities;

24 (3) review self-assessments by monitored utilities of  
25 cybersecurity efforts;

26 (4) research and develop best business practices  
27 regarding cybersecurity; and

1           (5) report to the commission on monitored utility  
2 cybersecurity preparedness.

3           (c) The independent organization certified under Section  
4 39.151 shall provide to the cybersecurity monitor any access,  
5 information, support, and cooperation that the commission  
6 determines is necessary for the monitor to perform the functions  
7 described by Subsection (b). The independent organization shall  
8 use funds from the fee authorized by Section 39.151(e) to pay for  
9 the cybersecurity monitor's activities.

10           (d) An electric utility, municipally owned utility, or  
11 electric cooperative that operates solely outside the ERCOT power  
12 region may elect to participate in the cybersecurity monitor  
13 program or to discontinue participation. The commission shall  
14 adopt rules establishing:

15           (1) procedures for an electric utility, municipally  
16 owned utility, or electric cooperative to notify the commission,  
17 the independent organization certified under Section 39.151, and  
18 the cybersecurity monitor that the utility or cooperative elects to  
19 participate or to discontinue participation; and

20           (2) a mechanism to require an electric utility,  
21 municipally owned utility, or electric cooperative that elects to  
22 participate to contribute to the costs incurred by the independent  
23 organization under this section.

24           (e) The cybersecurity monitor shall operate under the  
25 supervision and oversight of the commission.

26           (f) The commission shall adopt rules as necessary to  
27 implement this section and may enforce the provisions of this

1 section in the manner provided by this title. This section does not  
2 grant enforcement authority to the cybersecurity monitor or  
3 authorize the commission to delegate the commission's enforcement  
4 authority to the cybersecurity monitor. This section does not  
5 grant enforcement authority to the commission beyond authority  
6 explicitly provided for in this title.

7 (g) The staff of the cybersecurity monitor may communicate  
8 with commission staff about any cybersecurity information without  
9 restriction. Commission staff shall maintain the confidentiality  
10 of the cybersecurity information. Notwithstanding any other law,  
11 commission staff may not disclose information obtained under this  
12 section in an open meeting or through a response to a public  
13 information request.

14 (h) Information written, produced, collected, assembled, or  
15 maintained under Subsection (b), (c), or (g) is confidential and  
16 not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code. A  
17 governmental body is not required to conduct an open meeting under  
18 Chapter 551, Government Code, to deliberate a matter described by  
19 Subsection (b), (c), or (g).

20 SECTION 4. Section 39.402(a), Utilities Code, is amended to  
21 read as follows:

22 (a) Until the date on which an electric utility subject to  
23 this subchapter is authorized by the commission to implement  
24 customer choice, the rates of the utility shall be regulated under  
25 traditional cost of service regulation and the utility is subject  
26 to all applicable regulatory authority prescribed by this subtitle  
27 and Subtitle A, including Chapters 14, 32, 33, 36, and 37. Until

1 the date on which an electric utility subject to this subchapter  
2 implements customer choice, the provisions of this chapter, other  
3 than this subchapter, Sections 39.1516, 39.904, and 39.905, and the  
4 provisions relating to the duty to obtain a permit from the Texas  
5 Commission on Environmental Quality for an electric generating  
6 facility and to reduce emissions from an electric generating  
7 facility, shall not apply to that utility. That portion of any  
8 commission order entered before September 1, 2001, to comply with  
9 this subchapter shall be null and void.

10 SECTION 5. Section 39.452(d), Utilities Code, is amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 (d) Until the date on which an electric utility subject to  
13 this subchapter implements customer choice:

14 (1) the provisions of this chapter do not apply to that  
15 electric utility, other than this subchapter, Sections 39.1516,  
16 39.904, and 39.905, the provisions relating to the duty to obtain a  
17 permit from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for an  
18 electric generating facility and to reduce emissions from an  
19 electric generating facility, and the provisions of Subchapter G  
20 that pertain to the recovery and securitization of hurricane  
21 reconstruction costs authorized by Sections 39.458-39.463; and

22 (2) the electric utility is not subject to a rate  
23 freeze and, subject to the limitation provided by Subsection (b),  
24 may file for rate changes under Chapter 36 and for approval of one  
25 or more of the rate rider mechanisms authorized by Sections 39.454  
26 and 39.455.

27 SECTION 6. Section 39.502(b), Utilities Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 (b) Until the date on which an electric utility subject to  
3 this subchapter implements customer choice, the provisions of this  
4 chapter, other than this subchapter and Sections 39.1516, 39.904,  
5 and 39.905, do not apply to that utility.

6 SECTION 7. Section 39.552(b), Utilities Code, is amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (b) Until the date on which an electric utility subject to  
9 this subchapter implements customer choice, the provisions of this  
10 chapter, other than this subchapter and Sections 39.1516, 39.904,  
11 and 39.905, do not apply to that utility.

12 SECTION 8. Section 40.001(b), Utilities Code, is amended to  
13 read as follows:

14 (b) Except as specifically provided in this subsection,  
15 Chapter 39 does not apply to a river authority operating a steam  
16 generating plant on or before January 1, 1999, or a corporation  
17 authorized by Chapter 152, Water Code, or Section 32.053. A river  
18 authority operating a steam generating plant on or before January  
19 1, 1999, is subject to Sections 39.051(a)-(c), 39.108, 39.1516,  
20 39.155, 39.157(e), and 39.203.

21 SECTION 9. Section 40.004, Utilities Code, is amended to  
22 read as follows:

23 Sec. 40.004. JURISDICTION OF COMMISSION. Except as  
24 specifically otherwise provided in this chapter, the commission has  
25 jurisdiction over municipally owned utilities only for the  
26 following purposes:

27 (1) to regulate wholesale transmission rates and

1 service, including terms of access, to the extent provided by  
2 Subchapter A, Chapter 35;

3 (2) to regulate certification of retail service areas  
4 to the extent provided by Chapter 37;

5 (3) to regulate rates on appeal under Subchapters D  
6 and E, Chapter 33, subject to Section 40.051(c);

7 (4) to establish a code of conduct as provided by  
8 Section 39.157(e) applicable to anticompetitive activities and to  
9 affiliate activities limited to structurally unbundled affiliates  
10 of municipally owned utilities, subject to Section 40.054;

11 (5) to establish terms and conditions for open access  
12 to transmission and distribution facilities for municipally owned  
13 utilities providing customer choice, as provided by Section 39.203;

14 (6) ~~[to require collection of the nonbypassable fee~~  
15 ~~established under Section 39.903(b) and]~~ to administer the  
16 renewable energy credits program under Section 39.904(b) and the  
17 natural gas energy credits program under Section 39.9044(b); ~~and]~~

18 (7) to require reports of municipally owned utility  
19 operations only to the extent necessary to:

20 (A) enable the commission to determine the  
21 aggregate load and energy requirements of the state and the  
22 resources available to serve that load; or

23 (B) enable the commission to determine  
24 information relating to market power as provided by Section 39.155;  
25 and

26 (8) to evaluate and monitor the cybersecurity  
27 preparedness of a municipally owned utility described by Section

1 39.1516(a)(3) or (4).

2 SECTION 10. Section 41.004, Utilities Code, is amended to  
3 read as follows:

4 Sec. 41.004. JURISDICTION OF COMMISSION. Except as  
5 specifically provided otherwise in this chapter, the commission has  
6 jurisdiction over electric cooperatives only as follows:

7 (1) to regulate wholesale transmission rates and  
8 service, including terms of access, to the extent provided in  
9 Subchapter A, Chapter 35;

10 (2) to regulate certification to the extent provided  
11 in Chapter 37;

12 (3) to establish a code of conduct as provided in  
13 Section 39.157(e) subject to Section 41.054;

14 (4) to establish terms and conditions, but not rates,  
15 for open access to distribution facilities for electric  
16 cooperatives providing customer choice, as provided in Section  
17 39.203; ~~and~~

18 (5) to require reports of electric cooperative  
19 operations only to the extent necessary to:

20 (A) ensure the public safety;

21 (B) enable the commission to satisfy its  
22 responsibilities relating to electric cooperatives under this  
23 chapter;

24 (C) enable the commission to determine the  
25 aggregate electric load and energy requirements in the state and  
26 the resources available to serve that load; or

27 (D) enable the commission to determine



1 information relating to market power as provided in Section [39.155](#);  
2 and  
3 (6) to evaluate and monitor the cybersecurity  
4 preparedness of an electric cooperative described by Section  
5 39.1516(a)(3) or (4).

6 SECTION 11. To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails  
7 over another Act of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019,  
8 relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted  
9 codes.

10 SECTION 12. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.