

By: Murr

H.B. No. 3643

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to billing for telephone service during service interruptions.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 64, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Subchapter F, as follows:

SUBCHAPTER F. PROTECTION AGAINST UNFAIR CHARGES

Sec. 64.301 BILLING DURING SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS

(a) A telecommunications service provider shall not bill a customer for services during periods when service to the customer has been interrupted as a result of any hurricane, ice or snow storm, flood, or other weather-related event or natural disaster.

(b) The commission has the authority to enforce this section, including ordering refunds.

SECTION 2. Section 65.102(b), Utilities Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the commission has only the authority provided by this section over a deregulated company that holds a certificate of operating authority issued under this subchapter. Subject to Subsection (c), the following provisions apply to a deregulated company and may be enforced by the commission using the remedies provided by Subchapter B, Chapter 15, and Subsection (d):

(1) Subchapter A, Chapter 15;

- 1 (2) Subchapters A, C, and D, Chapter 17, as applicable
2 to carriers holding a certificate of operating authority;
- 3 (3) Sections 52.007, 52.060, and 52.156;
- 4 (4) Sections 54.001, 54.002, 54.003, 54.004, 54.005,
5 54.006, 54.008(a), 54.101, 54.102, 54.103, 54.105, 54.151, 54.156,
6 54.158, 54.159, 54.255, 54.256, 54.257, 54.259, 54.260, and 54.261;
- 7 (5) Sections 55.010, 55.123, 55.133, 55.134, 55.136,
8 and 55.137;
- 9 (6) Chapter 56, except Subchapters F and G;
- 10 (7) Chapter 60;
- 11 (8) Chapter 62;
- 12 (9) Section 64.002, and Subchapters E and F, Chapter
13 64;
- 14 (10) Sections 65.001, 65.002, 65.003, and 65.004, this
15 subchapter, and Subchapter E of this chapter; and
- 16 (11) Chapter 66.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.