87R10957 BRG-D

By:  Thierry H.B. No. 2526

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study by the Public Utility Commission of Texas regarding grid resilience and emergency response in electric power generation.

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

SECTION 1.  DEFINITION. In this Act, "commission" means the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

SECTION 2.  GRID RESILIENCE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE STUDY. (a) The commission shall conduct a study on electric grid resilience and emergency response in electric power generation.

(b)  The study conducted under this section must include:

(1)  an analysis of:

(A)  technologies, methods, and concepts that may improve community resilience to frequent or long-duration power outages;

(B)  upgrades and improvements to grid infrastructure to accommodate projected changes in power demand; and

(C)  previous long-duration power outages that occurred over a large area to identify common elements and best practices for electricity restoration and the mitigation and prevention of future outages; and

(2)  the development of:

(A)  methods to improve government and community preparation for long-duration power outages and power outages that occur over a large area;

(B)  tools to help electric utilities ensure continuous delivery of electricity to emergency facilities;

(C)  tools to improve coordination between the independent organization certified under Section 39.151, Utilities Code, for the ERCOT power region, entities that distribute electric energy, and political subdivisions;

(D)  technologies and capabilities to withstand and address the current and predicted effect of extreme weather events and other natural disasters, including the effect of the changing climate on electric grid infrastructure;

(E)  methods to improve information sharing between relevant federal and state agencies in the event of a mass power outage, or a physical or cyber attack on electric infrastructure;

(F)  advance monitoring, analytics, operation, and controls of electric grid systems to improve electric grid resilience;

(G)  methods to maintain cybersecurity during restoration of electric grid infrastructure and operation; and

(H)  methods to strengthen against or otherwise mitigate adverse effects on electric grid infrastructure from natural hazards.

(c)  In conducting the study, the commission may collaborate with other state agencies, institutions of higher education, nonprofit corporations, electric utilities, and other interested persons.

SECTION 3.  REPORT. Not later than September 1, 2022, the commission shall report the results of the study conducted under this Act and any recommendations to the legislature. The report must include any statutory changes necessary to implement the recommendations made in the report.

SECTION 4.  DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS. The commission may initiate a demonstration project to prove the effectiveness of a concept, technology, strategy, practice, or method related to any topic of the study conducted under this Act.

SECTION 5.  EXPIRATION. This Act expires December 31, 2022.

SECTION 6.  EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.