87R11762 BRG-D

By:  Lopez H.B. No. 2898

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to notice required after an intentional shutoff of electric and water service.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter A, Chapter 17, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Section 17.011 to read as follows:

Sec. 17.011.  NOTICE REQUIRED FOR INTENTIONAL OUTAGES. Not later than three hours after an electric utility, municipally owned utility, or electric cooperative intentionally shuts off electric power to a customer in response to an emergency event, the utility or cooperative shall notify the customer of the shutoff by e-mail or text message. The notice must include the following information:

(1)  the estimated time and date that the utility or cooperative will restore electric power to the customer; and

(2)  whether the shutoff is part of a rolling outage.

SECTION 2.  Subchapter E, Chapter 13, Water Code, is amended by adding Section 13.1397 to read as follows:

Sec. 13.1397.  NOTICE REQUIRED FOR INTENTIONAL SHUTOFF OF SERVICE. Not later than three hours after a retail public utility intentionally shuts off water service to a customer in response to an emergency event, the utility shall notify the customer of the shutoff by e-mail or text message. The notice must include the estimated time and date that the utility will restore water service to the customer.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.