

By: Thierry

H.B. No. 2526

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to a study by the Public Utility Commission of Texas  
3 regarding grid resilience and emergency response in electric power  
4 generation.

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

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

8 SECTION 2. GRID RESILIENCE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE STUDY.

9 (a) The commission shall conduct a study on electric grid  
10 resilience and emergency response in electric power generation.

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

12 (1) an analysis of:

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

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

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

23 (2) the development of:

24 (A) methods to improve government and community

1 preparation for long-duration power outages and power outages that  
2 occur over a large area;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 persons.

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

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

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

12           SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September  
13 1, 2021.