

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.

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