

By: Hernandez

H.B. No. 3699

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to a study by the Public Utility Commission of Texas
3 regarding smart meter communication networks.

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

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

7 SECTION 2. SMART METER COMMUNICATION NETWORKS STUDY. (a)
8 The commission shall conduct a study on the use of smart meter
9 communication networks to improve response after a widespread power
10 outage.

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

12 (1) identify the costs of using or increasing the
13 communication capacity of smart meters to allow for remote power
14 disconnection and restoration; and

15 (2) assess the potential applications for curtailing
16 power to individual retail electric customers instead of entire
17 circuits in the event of a natural disaster or other
18 weather-related event that results in forced curtailment of power.

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

23 SECTION 3. REPORT. Not later than September 1, 2022, the
24 commission shall report the results of the study conducted under

1 this Act and any recommendations to the legislature. The report
2 must include recommendations for any statutory changes necessary to
3 implement the recommendations made in the report.

4 SECTION 4. EXPIRATION. This Act expires December 31, 2022.

5 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
6 1, 2021.