

By: Eckhardt

S.B. No. 1843

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the weather preparedness of facilities for providing electric service.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 35, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Section 35.0021 to read as follows:

Sec. 35.0021. EXTREME WEATHER PREPAREDNESS. (a) The commission by rule shall require each provider of generation or electric energy storage in the ERCOT power region to implement measures to prepare generation and storage facilities to provide adequate electric generation service during extreme weather conditions, including extreme heat, cold, drought, and rain.

(b) The rules must include provisions for weatherization, securing fuel sources, and securing water sources.

(c) The rules must be based on climate models over a 15-year period provided by the Office of the Texas State Climatologist.

(d) The commission shall review and update the rules at least once every five years.

(e) The commission shall:

(1) inspect each provider of generation at least once per year to evaluate compliance with this section; and

(2) publish a list of compliant providers of generation.

SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 38, Utilities Code, is

1 amended by adding Section 38.074 to read as follows:

2 Sec. 38.074. EXTREME WEATHER PREPAREDNESS. (a) The
3 commission by rule shall require each electric cooperative,
4 municipally owned utility, and transmission and distribution
5 utility providing transmission or distribution service or demand
6 response equipment in the ERCOT power region to implement measures
7 to prepare facilities to maintain service quality and reliability
8 during extreme weather conditions, including extreme heat, cold,
9 drought, and rain.

10 (b) The rules must include provisions for weatherization.

11 (c) The rules must be based on climate models over a 15-year
12 period provided by the Office of the Texas State Climatologist.

13 (d) The commission shall review and update the rules at
14 least once every five years.

15 (e) The commission shall:

16 (1) inspect each electric cooperative, municipally
17 owned utility, and transmission and distribution utility at least
18 once per year to evaluate compliance with this section; and

19 (2) publish a list of compliant cooperatives and
20 utilities.

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