88R9142 ANG-D

By:  Turner H.B. No. 4118

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to service provided to residential customers by certain gas utilities during weather emergencies; authorizing a civil penalty.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter F, Chapter 104, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Section 104.259 to read as follows:

Sec. 104.259.  PROVISION OF ADEQUATE SERVICE DURING EXTREME WEATHER EMERGENCY. (a) In this section, "extreme weather emergency" has the meaning assigned by Section 104.258.

(b)  The regulatory authority shall require gas utilities, as defined by Sections 101.003 and 121.001, that serve residential customers to provide an adequate amount of pipeline pressure in distribution gas pipeline facilities that serve those customers during an extreme weather emergency.

(c)  If a gas utility violates Subsection (b) for at least six consecutive hours, the regulatory authority shall require the gas utility to provide to each affected residential customer a $100 rebate for each consecutive six-hour period in which the violation continued.

SECTION 2.  Section 105.023, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b-2) to read as follows:

(b-2)  Notwithstanding Subsection (b), a civil penalty under this section shall be in the amount of $1 million for each violation of Section 104.259. A municipality may file a suit to recover the civil penalty if the gas utility or affiliate in violation of Section 104.259 is regulated by the municipality.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.