

By: Plesa

H.B. No. 2531

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. Section 17.004, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a-1) Not later than three hours after an electric utility intentionally shuts off electric power to a customer in response to an emergency event, the utility, or the customer's retail electric provider, as appropriate, 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 will restore electric power to the customer; and

(2) whether the shutoff is part of an involuntary load shedding event.

SECTION 2. Section 17.005, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(g) Not later than three hours after a municipally owned utility intentionally shuts off electric power 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 following information:

(1) the estimated time and date that the utility will

1 restore electric power to the customer; and

2 (2) whether the shutoff is part of an involuntary load
3 shedding event.

4 SECTION 3. Section 17.006, Utilities Code, is amended by
5 adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

6 (g) Not later than three hours after an electric cooperative
7 intentionally shuts off electric power to a customer in response to
8 an emergency event, the utility shall notify the customer of the
9 shutoff by e-mail or text message. The notice must include the
10 following information:

11 (1) the estimated time and date that the utility will
12 restore electric power to the customer; and

13 (2) whether the shutoff is part of an involuntary load
14 shedding event.

15 SECTION 4. Subchapter E, Chapter 13, Water Code, is amended
16 by adding Section 13.1397 to read as follows:

17 Sec. 13.1397. NOTICE REQUIRED FOR INTENTIONAL SHUTOFF OF
18 SERVICE. Not later than three hours after a retail public utility
19 intentionally shuts off water service to a customer in response to
20 an emergency event, the utility shall notify the customer of the
21 shutoff by e-mail or text message. The notice must include the
22 estimated time and date that the utility will restore water service
23 to the customer.

24 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.