

AN ACT

relating to plans for the management and inspection of distribution poles.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Subchapter E, Chapter 38, Utilities Code, is amended to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER E. INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE [~~REPORT~~]

SECTION 2. Subchapter E, Chapter 38, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Section 38.103 to read as follows:

Sec. 38.103. DISTRIBUTION POLE PLAN. (a) Each electric cooperative, electric utility, and municipally owned utility that distributes electric energy to the public shall submit to the commission a plan for the management and inspection of distribution poles the cooperative or utility owns in the cooperative's or utility's distribution system.

(b) Each plan submitted under Subsection (a) must include:

(1) a statement of the plan's scope and objectives for ensuring public safety through the effective management, inspection, maintenance, and repair of distribution poles;

(2) the roles and responsibilities of individuals responsible for overseeing and executing the plan;

(3) processes for training and certifying personnel, including third-party vendors, who inspect distribution poles;

(4) an estimated timeline for completing inspections

1 and remedial action required for any pole identified as unreliable,
2 unsafe, or needing repair;

3 (5) processes for documenting and responding to a
4 report or complaint made by a landowner regarding the condition or
5 repair of a distribution pole;

6 (6) for a plan submitted by an electric utility, the
7 estimated cost of implementing the plan; and

8 (7) a description of the cooperative's or utility's
9 methods to monitor compliance with the plan.

10 (c) Not later than May 1 of each year, an entity to which
11 this section applies shall submit an update to the commission
12 detailing the entity's compliance with the plan's objectives, the
13 costs of implementing the plan to date, and the results of the
14 entity's inspection of distribution poles, including the number of
15 poles inspected and any remediation or replacement action taken.
16 An electric utility may submit the update in a report required under
17 Section [38.101](#).

18 (d) The commission shall review each plan and update
19 submitted under this section to determine whether the entity that
20 submitted the plan or update is in compliance with the plan's
21 objectives described by Subsection (b)(1) and notify the entity
22 whether or not the entity is in compliance with those objectives.

23 (e) The commission may accept in place of the information
24 required under this section any information required under other
25 law that is substantially similar to the information required under
26 this section.

27 SECTION 3. Not later than January 1, 2027, each entity to

1 which Section 38.103, Utilities Code, as added by this Act, applies
2 shall submit the plan required by that section to the Public Utility
3 Commission of Texas. The Public Utility Commission of Texas may
4 establish different plan submission dates for each class of entity
5 to which Section 38.103, Utilities Code, as added by this Act,
6 applies.

7 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 144 was passed by the House on April 29, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 125, Nays 21, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 144 on May 29, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 110, Nays 18, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 144 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 26, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor