

By: Lalani

H.B. No. 842

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study and report on burying power lines in the Gulf Coast region.

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1) "Commission" means the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

(2) "Study area" means the area in the state located within 150 miles of the coast of the Gulf of Mexico.

SECTION 2. FINDINGS. The legislature finds that:

(1) the study area is prone to weather-related power outages;

(2) underground power lines are more resistant than overhead power lines to extreme weather conditions; and

(3) burying power lines in the study area could reduce the number of weather-related power outages in the study area.

SECTION 3. STUDY. The commission shall evaluate for the study area the potential:

(1) cost of burying existing overhead power lines;

(2) cost of maintaining and repairing underground power lines;

(3) cost savings associated with reduced weather-related power outages; and

(4) use of technologies developed or tested in the

1 Department of Energy's Grid Overhaul with Proactive, High-Speed
2 Undergrounding for Reliability, Resilience, and Security program
3 in the study area.

4 SECTION 4. REPORT. The commission shall submit a report of
5 the results of the study and any recommendations to the governor,
6 lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives
7 not later than September 1, 2026.

8 SECTION 5. EXPIRATION DATE. This Act expires October 31,
9 2026.

10 SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
11 1, 2025.