

By: Bhojani

H.B. No. 3131

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to a study by the Public Utility Commission of Texas of the  
3 effects that current laws, rules, and regulations of this state and  
4 its political subdivisions regarding pole attachments have on the  
5 expansion of broadband service.

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

7 SECTION 1. (a) In this section:

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

10 (2) "Electric cooperative" has the meaning assigned by  
11 Section 181.048, Utilities Code.

12 (3) "Pole" has the meaning assigned by Section  
13 252.001, Utilities Code.

14 (4) "Pole attachment" means an affixture of cables,  
15 strands, wires, and associated equipment attached to a pole  
16 directly or indirectly for the provision of broadband service.

17 (b) The commission, in consultation with the Texas  
18 Broadband Development Office, shall conduct a study of current  
19 laws, rules, and regulations of this state and its political  
20 subdivisions related to pole attachments to determine the effects  
21 those laws, rules, and regulations have on broadband service  
22 expansion. The study must include an evaluation of:

23 (1) the average time for the preparation and placement  
24 of a pole attachment, including:

1 (A) the time it takes for an electric cooperative  
2 or an electric cooperative's affiliate to approve a new pole  
3 attachment requested by a broadband provider; and

4 (B) ways to decrease or standardize the time it  
5 takes for the completion of a new pole attachment;

6 (2) the effectiveness of laws, rules, or regulations  
7 regarding the timely relocation or removal of:

8 (A) poles that are functionally obsolete;

9 (B) poles that violate the Americans with  
10 Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Section 12101 et seq.); and

11 (C) poles that obstruct current or future  
12 municipal infrastructure; and

13 (3) the commission's current resources to educate  
14 broadband providers, electric cooperatives, and electric  
15 cooperative affiliates regarding the right to install a pole  
16 attachment.

17 (c) Not later than February 15, 2026, the commission shall  
18 submit an initial report regarding the results of the study  
19 conducted under Subsection (b) of this section to each legislative  
20 standing committee with jurisdiction over issues regarding  
21 broadband services.

22 (d) Not later than December 1, 2026, the commission shall  
23 submit a final report regarding the results of the study conducted  
24 under Subsection (b) of this section to each legislative standing  
25 committee with jurisdiction over issues regarding broadband  
26 services.

27 (e) This Act expires December 31, 2026.

1 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.