

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas**

FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 22, 2025

TO: Honorable Ken King, Chair, House Committee on State Affairs

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB842 by Lalani (Relating to a study and report on burying power lines in the Gulf Coast region.), **As Introduced**

Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds for HB842, As Introduced: a negative impact of (\$1,000,000) through the biennium ending August 31, 2027.

The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

General Revenue-Related Funds, Five- Year Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds</i>
2026	(\$1,000,000)
2027	\$0
2028	\$0
2029	\$0
2030	\$0

All Funds, Five-Year Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Probable Savings/(Cost) from General Revenue Fund 1</i>
2026	(\$1,000,000)
2027	\$0
2028	\$0
2029	\$0
2030	\$0

Fiscal Analysis

The bill would require the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to evaluate the costs, savings, and use of technologies developed for burying power lines in areas within 150 miles of the gulf coast. PUC would be required to submit a report to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House no later than September 1, 2026 detailing the findings. The bill would take effect on September 1, 2025 and expire on October 31, 2026.

Methodology

This analysis assumes PUC would need to hire a contractor to complete the one-time study in fiscal year 2026. According to the agency and based on a similar study performed through contract for the City of Austin, the estimated cost to produce this study would be \$1.0 million.

Technology

PUC anticipates no technology costs.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 473 Public Utility Commission of Texas

LBB Staff: JMc, WP, GDZ, JBel