

By: Davis of Dallas

H.B. No. 1475

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to electricity service provided by retail electric  
3 providers; creating a criminal offense.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 15.030(b), Utilities Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (b) This section does not apply to an offense described by  
8 Section 17.010 or 55.138.

9 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 17, Utilities Code, is  
10 amended by adding Section 17.010 to read as follows:

11 Sec. 17.010. UNAUTHORIZED SERVICE CHANGE; OFFENSE. (a) A  
12 person who is not a customer of a retail electric provider at an  
13 address may not discontinue the service provided by the retail  
14 electric provider at that address and initiate service with a  
15 different retail electric provider at that address unless the  
16 customer for that address consents.

17 (b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

18 SECTION 3. Subchapter Z, Chapter 39, Utilities Code, is  
19 amended by adding Section 39.917 to read as follows:

20 Sec. 39.917. SERVICE INITIATION. (a) A retail electric  
21 provider may not initiate service for a customer at an address  
22 unless:

23 (1) the retail electric provider has determined that  
24 no other retail electric provider is currently providing service

1 for a different customer at that address; or

2 (2) if another retail electric provider is currently  
3 providing service for a different customer at that address, the  
4 retail electric provider receives a written statement signed by  
5 that customer approving the service initiation.

6 (b) For a service at an address that is a rental property,  
7 the release required by Subsection (a)(2) may be given by the owner  
8 or operator of the property.

9 (c) A retail electric provider may not refuse a request for  
10 information made by another retail electric provider for the  
11 purposes of complying with this section.

12 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.