

By: Menéndez, Zaffirini

S.B. No. 758

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to bill payment assistance programs offered by certain municipalities.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1502.056(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) If the revenue of a utility system, park, or swimming pool secures the payment of public securities issued or obligations incurred under this chapter, each expense of operation and maintenance, including all salaries, labor, materials, interest, repairs and extensions necessary to provide efficient service, and each proper item of expense, is a first lien against that revenue. For a municipality with a population of more than one million but less than two million, the first lien against the revenue of a municipally owned utility system that secures the payment of public securities issued or obligations incurred under this chapter also applies to funding, as a necessary operations expense, for a bill payment assistance program for utility system customers who:

(1) ~~[have been threatened with disconnection from service for nonpayment of bills and who]~~ have been determined by the municipality to be low-income customers; or

(2) are military veterans who have significantly decreased abilities to regulate their bodies' core temperatures because of severe burns received in combat.

1           SECTION 2.   This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.