

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 254
By: Barrientos
Economic Development
3-5-97
As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, certain utility customers in Texas have discovered that they have been overcharged by a utility and have requested that the Public Utility Commission (PUC) require the utility to pay them a refund for the amount that the customers were overcharged. This bill requires a refund adjustment to be made for the entire period a customer was overcharged. The PUC is now questioning whether an agency rule requiring full refunds is necessary. If this rule is changed, future customers who are owed a refund may only get a portion or none of the refund that they deserve. S.B. 254 requires a refund adjustment to be made for the entire period a customer was overcharged.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 254 requires a refund adjustment to be made for the entire period a customer was overcharged.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1.01. Amends Public Utility Regulatory Act of 1995, by adding Section 1.409, as follows:

Sec 1.409. REFUNDS. Requires an adjustment to be made for the entire period that a customer was overcharged, if the customer is due a refund.

SECTION 2.02. Emergency clause.

Effective date: upon passage.