

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
82R2308 RWG-D

S.B. 937  
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Business & Commerce  
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As Filed

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

The goal of this legislation is to help nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and hospice care centers after hurricanes or other natural disasters that result in power outages. Currently, electric companies follow guidelines for power restoration, prioritizing services vital to public safety. Hospitals by rule are required to be a priority for the purposes of power restoration; however, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and hospice care centers are not. These facilities provide medical care, and some patients, particularly those in nursing homes, are reliant on medical equipment that runs on electricity.

S.B. 937 requires utility companies to treat nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and hospice care centers like hospitals for the purposes of electricity restoration.

As proposed, S.B. 937 amends current law relating to priorities for restoration of electric service following an extended power outage.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Public Utility Commission of Texas in SECTION 1 (Section 38.072, Utilities Code) of this bill.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter D, Chapter 38, Utilities Code, by adding Section 38.072, as follows:

Sec. 38.072. PRIORITIES FOR POWER RESTORATION TO CERTAIN MEDICAL FACILITIES. (a) Defines, in this section, "assisted living facility," "extended power outage," "hospice services," and "nursing facility."

(b) Requires the Public Utility Commission of Texas by rule to require an electric utility, municipally owned utility, electric cooperative, qualifying facility, power generation company, exempt wholesale generator, or power marketer to give to a nursing facility, an assisted living facility, and a facility that provides hospice services the same priority that it gives to a hospital in its emergency operations plan for restoring power after an extended power outage.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2011.