1-6   COMMITTEE VOTE

1-7		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	Schwertner	X			
1-9	King	X			
1-10	Blanco	X			
1-11	Campbell	X			
1-12	Creighton	X			
1-13	Johnson	X			
1-14	Kolkhorst	X			
1-15	Menéndez	X			
1-16	Middleton	X			
1-17	Nichols	X			
1-18	Zaffirini	X			

1-19   A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-20   AN ACT

1-21 relating to the authority of the Public Utility Commission of Texas
1-22 to retain assistance for regional proceedings affecting certain
1-23 electric utilities and consumers.
1-24   BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
1-25   SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 39, Utilities Code, is
1-26 amended by adding Section 39.004 to read as follows:
1-27   Sec. 39.004. HIRING ASSISTANCE FOR REGIONAL PROCEEDINGS.
1-28 (a) The commission may retain any consultant, accountant, auditor,
1-29 engineer, or attorney the commission considers necessary to
1-30 represent the commission in a proceeding before a regional
1-31 transmission organization, or before a court reviewing proceedings
1-32 of a regional transmission organization, related to:
1-33   (1)   the relationship of an electric utility to a power
1-34 region, regional transmission organization, or independent system
1-35 operator;
1-36   (2)   the approval of an agreement among an electric
1-37 utility and the electric utility's affiliates concerning the
1-38 coordination of the operations of the electric utility and the
1-39 electric utility's affiliates; or
1-40   (3)   other matters related to an electric utility that
1-41 may affect the ultimate rates paid by retail customers in this
1-42 state.
1-43   (b)   Assistance for which a consultant, accountant, auditor,
1-44 engineer, or attorney may be retained under Subsection (a) may
1-45 include:
1-46   (1)   conducting a study;
1-47   (2)   conducting an investigation;
1-48   (3)   presenting evidence;
1-49   (4)   advising the commission; or
1-50   (5)   representing the commission.
1-51   (c)   The electric utility that is the subject of the
1-52 proceeding shall pay timely the reasonable costs of the services of
1-53 a person retained under Subsection (a), as determined by the
1-54 commission. The total costs an electric utility is required to pay
1-55 under this subsection may not exceed $1.5 million in a 12-month
1-56 period.
1-57   (d)   The commission shall allow an electric utility to
1-58 recover both the total costs the electric utility paid under
1-59 Subsection (c) and the carrying charges for those costs through a
1-60 rider established annually to recover the costs paid and carrying
1-61 charges incurred during the preceding calendar year. The rider may

2-1 not be implemented before the rider is reviewed and approved by the
2-2 commission.
2-3   (e) The commission shall consult the attorney general
2-4 before the commission retains a consultant, accountant, auditor, or
2-5 engineer under Subsection (a). The retention of an attorney under
2-6 Subsection (a) is subject to the approval of the attorney general
2-7 under Section 402.0212, Government Code.
2-8   (f) The commission shall be precluded from engaging any
2-9 individual who is required to register under Section 305.003,
2-10 Government Code.
2-11   (g) Notwithstanding Sections 39.402(a), 39.452(d), and
2-12 39.502(b), this section applies to an electric utility to which
2-13 Subchapter I, J, or K applies.
2-14   SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-18 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

2-19   * * * * *