

# Support Reliability Measures: Revisions to Ten Percent Worst Feeder List

**HB 2052 by Rep. Hilderbran**

**AECT Position: Support**

## Proposal

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- HB 2052 would allow – *rather than mandate* – the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to take appropriate enforcement action on electric utilities with feeders that have poor operational performance.
- Operational performance is characterized by the industry-wide terms System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) and System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI). These terms describe “how long” and “how often” a feeder is interrupted, respectively.
- Currently, the PUC must take an enforcement action against a utility for a feeder that for two consecutive years appears on the utility’s list of worst 10 percent performing feeders – regardless of the underlying cause *and* despite the fact that the feeder may have acceptable performance based on relatively good SAIDI and SAIFI.
- HB 2052 shifts the PUC’s and the utilities’ focus to improving overall system reliability, and away from a perpetual process of punitive actions.

## AECT Position

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- AECT supports HB 2052, because under current law, an electric utility will always by definition have a list of 10 percent worst performing feeders, which may have performance metrics that the industry and others would deem to be reasonable.
- The PUC, in adopting Rule 25.52, recognized that “there may be a point at which it is neither reasonable nor cost effective to improve distribution feeder performance.” (Project 21076, Order Adopting Rule, p. 8.)

## Discussion

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- Many feeders are on the list due to unfortunate circumstances beyond the control of the electric utility, such as car collisions, contact with wildlife, and weather events. Electric utilities should not be penalized for events that are beyond their control.
- Some feeders are difficult to remove from this list in a cost-effective manner due to location, geography, and a host of other factors. This should be taken into consideration because these costs are eventually passed on to customers.
- The bill would not eliminate the PUC’s authority to enforce penalties.
- The bill maintains the overall SAIDI and SAIFI reliability measures to allow evaluation of the utilities’ operational performance.
- This measure would continue to encourage utilities to improve system reliability for the benefit of all customers, while promoting a prudent use of available resources for improvements.