



Temporary Continuation Of Utility Service

CSHB 3428 by Parker

Proposal

- CSHB 3428 would modify the Estates Code to allow a decedent's next of kin to require continuation of electric service (as well as gas, water, wastewater and solid waste services) for as many as 90 days.
 - The next of kin must submit the decedent's death certificate for this timeline to go into effect.
 - This timeline may be shortened if a personal representative of the decedent's estate qualifies, or if the next of kin requests the service be discontinued.
- The cost of utility service (including electric service) during this time period is declared the liability of the decedent's estate.

Discussion

- The bill is unnecessary; retail electric providers (REPs) routinely make other mutually-agreed arrangements for the account.
- The bill would limit the flexibility for REPs and utilities to work with next of kin on a case-by-case basis, and would create additional costs for the affected entities, as well as for the estate of the decedent.
- The bill could allow more than 116 days of unpaid electricity usage before the service could be disconnected for non-payment (90 days of service plus 16 days to pay plus 10 days for disconnect notice plus processing time).

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