



COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Commission on Seniors

Recommendation Number: 20180214-4Ci Austin Energy Security Deposit Waivers

WHEREAS, Austin Energy is proposing new credit security deposit policies and waivers which will expand the circumstances under which the \$200 security deposit will be waived for residential customers; and

WHEREAS, the Public Utility Commission of Texas Substantive Rule Section 25.478 provide in subsection C and E waivers for people over the age of 65 and the medically indigent:

(C) A residential customer or applicant may be deemed as having established satisfactory credit if the customer or applicant is 65 years of age or older and the customer is not currently delinquent in payment of any electric service account.

(E) A residential customer or applicant seeking to establish service may be deemed as having established satisfactory credit if the customer is medically indigent. In order for a customer or applicant to be considered medically indigent, the customer or applicant must make a demonstration that the following criteria are met. Such demonstration must be made annually:

- i. the customer's or applicant's household income must be at or below 150% of the poverty guidelines as certified by a governmental entity or government funded energy assistance program provider; and
- ii. (ii) the customer or applicant or the spouse of the customer or applicant must have been certified by that person's physician as being unable to perform three or more activities of daily living as defined in 22 TAC §224.4, or the customer's or applicant's monthly out-of-pocket medical expenses must exceed 20% of the household's gross income. For the purposes of this subsection, the term "physician" shall mean any medical doctor, doctor of osteopathy, nurse practitioner, registered nurse, state-licensed social workers, state-licensed physical and occupational therapists, and an employee of an agency certified to provide home health services pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1395 et seq.

WHEREAS, improving affordability of utility service is a goal of the Age Friendly Action Plan adopted by the Commission on Seniors and the Austin City Council in 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission on Seniors requests the support of the Electric Utility Commission and the Austin City Council to align Austin Energy's credit security deposit policies and waivers with the Public Utility Commission of Texas regulations providing waivers for customers over age 65 and those who are medically indigent.

Date of Approval: February 14, 2018

Record of the vote: 12-0, with Commissioners Briesemeister, Varteressian, Angel, Bordie, Cagle, Garcia-Pittman, Grampp, Hauser, Jackson, Kareithi, Lugo, Van Sickle voting for. Commissioners Guillen and Nicola absent.

Attest:


