



# RYAN GUILLEN

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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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## **GUILLEN FIGHTS FOR REDUCED WATER BILLS FOR ELDERLY**

*H.B. 1083 Authorizes Utility Providers To Offer Discounts To Seniors*

**AUSTIN** - As an author of H.B. 1083, Representative Ryan Guillen (D - Rural South Texas) says the measure establishes a method in which utility companies can offer senior citizens a much needed lower rate on their water bills.

**"Many senior citizens live on a fixed income, and high water bills can place an undue burden on some of our most vulnerable," said Guillen.**

H.B. 1083, which goes into effect this week, allows water utilities to provide subsidized rates for elderly customers without burdening taxpayers. It enables local utility providers to identify senior citizens within their communities and offer them a lower rate, something that utility companies currently cannot do. This program allows utilities to create a donation fund to provide the reduced rates, and prohibits them from charging other customers a higher rate to make up the subsidy. This is so other customers are not penalized for the reduced rates.

**"This measure was needed to help our seniors who struggled to pay for something as necessary as water, and I am proud to have helped pass it," remarked Guillen. "As a community, we all have a duty to support the elderly and make sure they have affordable access to our most basic needs."**

Utilities have the discretion to identify and create a voluntary program, where they can set their own policies and rates. This ensures the program is focused on local needs. H.B. 1083 was signed by the governor on May 26, 2017 and is set to go into effect on September 1, 2017.

*Serving ten rural South Texas counties in the Texas House of Representatives, Ryan Guillen is known for his hard work, fierce independence, and relentless efforts for South Texas families. Recently, Capitol Inside called him a "House Bill Machine," and a "one-person assembly line for legislation." Since elected, few other legislators have passed more bills than Guillen. Sign up for updates at [ryanguillen.com](http://ryanguillen.com), [facebook.com/representative.guillen](https://facebook.com/representative.guillen), and [twitter.com/ryanguillen](https://twitter.com/ryanguillen)*

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