



## California Public Utilities Commission

### Legislative Update – Office of Governmental Affairs

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*Bills of Interest to the Low-Income Oversight Board  
Meeting – Friday June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

The California Legislature reconvened at the beginning of May following an unplanned recess due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Members in both houses were asked to significantly cut down the amount of bills they introduce this session to focus attention the most critical issues and in consideration of the massive budget deficit facing the state. Despite any reduction in legislation, some members are still choosing to pursue legislation that would affect low-income ratepayers and consumers.

#### **1. Assembly Bill 3079 (E. Garcia) - Telecommunications: universal service: lifeline program**

This bill would require the commission, on or before July 1, 2021, to update the portability freeze rule to include a 6-month duration of the portability freeze. The bill would require the commission to adopt updated rules for the lifeline program that include a modified recertification process and other changes relating to enrollment, participation, and renewal in the program. The bill would require that the commission authorize only commission-approved telephone corporations to provide service using lifeline program funding and require the commission, before July 1, 2022, to determine whether to permit a lifeline telephone service subscriber to have an additional lifeline subscription for broadband services. The bill would require the commission to annually report to the Legislature on the implementation of those updated rules and lifeline participation and renewal levels by ZIP Code until specified participation goals are achieved.

**Status:** *In Assembly Appropriations Committee*

#### **2. Senate Bill 1403 (Hueso) - Home weatherization for low-income customers.**

This bill would redefine “low-income customers”, for purposes of determining eligibility for home weatherization in low-income communities, to mean low-income persons and families under the income limit regulations established and published by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The change is intended to conform the eligibility requirements with other programs that use the same definition.

**Status:** *In Senate Appropriations*

### **3. Senate Bill 1058 (Hueso) - Communications: Internet service providers.**

This bill would require the commission, in an existing or a new proceeding, to direct every internet service provider, to file an annual emergency operations plan containing certain information with the commission. One of the elements of the emergency operations plan plan would be for the internet service providers to identify an affordable internet plan that the provider could make available to low-income customers as an emergency-response measure.

***Status:*** *In Senate Appropriations*