



California Public Utilities Commission

Legislative Update – Office of Governmental Affairs

*Bills of Interest to the Low-Income Oversight Board
Meeting – Friday March 6, 2020*

The Legislature reconvened on January 6th and the bill introduction deadline was on February 21st. At this point many bills are still in “spot bill” form, meaning they do not have substantive language included. OGA is including a summary of two bills with substantive language affecting low-income programs below:

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.

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.