



California Public Utilities Commission

Legislative Update – Office of Governmental Affairs

*Bills of Interest to the Low-Income Oversight Board
Meeting – Tuesday December 10th, 2019*

1. Senate Bill 704 (Bradford): Telecommunications: Moore Universal Telephone Service Act.

This bill would have clarified the definition of a household for the purposes of Lifeline program eligibility, required the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to update outreach and enrollment rules for the program, and required the CPUC to determine whether a Lifeline participant should be allowed to obtain an additional Lifeline subscription for broadband services.

Status: Vetoed by Governor.

2. Assembly Bill 386 (E. Garcia) - Agricultural Working Poor Energy Efficient Housing Program.

This bill would have required the Department of Community Services and Development, in consultation with the CPUC and Energy Commission, to develop and administer the Agricultural Working Poor Energy Efficient Housing Program to improve energy efficiency in farmworker-owned housing.

Status: Vetoed by Governor

3. Assembly Bill 1366 (Daly & Obernolte) - Voice over Internet Protocol and Internet Protocol enabled communications services.

This bill indefinitely extends the prohibition on CPUC oversight of VoIP and IP communication services, which would otherwise sunset on January 1, 2020. Under current law, VoIP providers are not mandated to comply with CPUC rules dealing with service quality nor are they required to comply with basic service requirements. The negative effects of this policy fall the hardest on low-income Californians. Under AB 1366, it would require a new act of law before the Commission or any other state agency would be authorized to act to ensure reliable communication if it involves VoIP or IP communication. The Commission has taken an **OPPOSE** position on the bill.

Status: Held in Committee.