



California Public Utilities Commission

Legislative Update – Office of Governmental Affairs

*Bills of Interest to the Low Income Oversight Board
Meeting – June 8th, 2018*

1. Assembly Bill 2068 (Chu): Electricity: rates: public schools. (4/25/18 Version)

This bill would require the CPUC to direct all electrical and gas corporations to evaluate, and report findings to the CPUC on, the feasibility and economic impacts of establishing a public school electric and gas rate that would reflect a discount from the current rate structure. This bill would require the CPUC to compile these reports and submit this compilation to the Legislature, by January 1, 2020.

2. Assembly Bill 2537 (Carrillo): Telecommunications universal service programs: Lifeline Oversight Board. (5/25/18 Version)

This bill would repeal language creating the Universal Lifeline Telephone Service Trust Administrative Committee and instead establish the Lifeline Oversight Board both to advise the commission on the effective development, implementation, and administration of the lifeline program to ensure lifeline service is available to the people of the state, and to serve as a liaison between the CPUC and low-income subscribers and their representatives to carry out the program pursuant to the commission's direction, control, and approval. The board would be composed of 11 members, selected by the CPUC as specified, and the bill would require that board meetings alternate locations between northern, central, and southern California to maximize participation from consumers in those regions. The bill would require the CPUC to (1) assign staff and provide technical support to the board, and work with the board and other specified entities to increase participation in the lifeline program 2) ensure the needs of low-income lifeline subscribers are met, and (3) provide formal notice of board meetings in the CPUC's daily calendar.

3. Assembly Bill 2636 (Eduardo Garcia): Attorney General: Environmental Justice Fund. (4/18/18 Version)

This bill would create the Environmental Justice Fund, into which the Attorney General would be authorized to deposit moneys from various special funds, settlements, and penalties, as specified. The bill would require that the fund be used, upon appropriation by the Legislature, by the Attorney General to provide additional support for investigations and litigation intended to protect communities that endure a disproportionate share of environmental pollution and to promote the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

4. Assembly Bill 2652 (Quirk): Telecommunications: universal service. (5/25/18 Version)

This bill would require the CPUC to instead adopt the portability freeze rule for the lifeline program by January 15, 2019. The bill would require the CPUC, on or before June 30, 2019, to adopt a rule to improve the cost-effectiveness of the delivery of the lifeline program, and would require the CPUC to include, at minimum, certain features in the rule.

5. Senate Bill 623 (Monning): Water quality: Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund (8/21/17 Version)

Establishes the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund in the State Treasury and would provide that moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the state board. The bill would require the board to administer the fund to secure access to safe drinking water for all Californians, while also ensuring the long-term sustainability of drinking water service and infrastructure. The bill would authorize the state board to provide for the deposit into the fund of federal contributions, voluntary contributions, gifts, grants, bequests, and settlements from parties responsible for contamination of drinking water supplies. The bill would require the state board to expend moneys in the fund for grants, loans, contracts, or services to assist eligible applicants with projects relating to the provision of safe and affordable drinking water consistent with a fund implementation plan adopted annually by the state board, as prescribed. The bill would require the state board annually to prepare and make available a report of expenditures of the fund and to adopt annually, after a public hearing, an assessment of funding need that estimates the anticipated funding needed for the next fiscal year to achieve the purposes of the fund. The bill would require, by January 1, 2019, the state board, in consultation with local health officers and other relevant stakeholders, to make available a map of aquifers that are used or likely to be used as a source of drinking water that are at high risk of containing contaminants. For purposes of the map, the bill would require local health officers and other relevant local agencies to provide all results of, and data associated with, water quality testing performed by certified laboratories to the board, as specified. By imposing additional duties on local health officers and local agencies, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

6. Senate Bill 819 (Hill, Dodd, McGuire, Wiener): Electrical corporations: rates. (4/9/18 Version)

This bill would prohibit an electrical corporation or gas corporation from recovering through a rate approved by the CPUC an uninsured expense resulting from damages caused by the electrical corporation's electric plant or the gas corporation's gas plant if the CPUC determines that the electrical or gas corporation, or its agent, did not reasonably construct, maintain, manage, control, or operate the plant. The bill would authorize the CPUC, for an electrical or gas corporation's rate application to recover costs or expenses, to authorize the recovery of those costs or expenses, in full or in part, and would specify that only those costs or expenses that are just and reasonable, which may comprise only a portion of those costs or expenses, are recoverable. The bill would state the intent of the Legislature and make legislative findings and declarations regarding the commission's rate recovery functions.

7. Senate Bill 822 (Wiener): Broadband Internet access service. (5/1/18 Version)

This bill would revise the act to prohibit specified actions by an Internet service provider, as defined, that provides broadband Internet access service, as specified. The bill would prohibit an Internet service provider from offering different levels of quality of service to end users as part of broadband Internet access service unless specified conditions are met. The bill would authorize the Attorney General, upon his or her own motion or upon complaint, to investigate and bring an action to enforce those prohibitions and

would require that complaints be reviewed by the Attorney General on a case-by-case basis. The bill would additionally make the consumer remedies and procedures of the act applicable to enforce those prohibitions. This bill would prohibit a public entity, as defined, from purchasing, or providing funding for the purchase of, any fixed or mobile broadband Internet access services that violate these prohibitions. The bill would require an Internet service provider that provides fixed or mobile broadband Internet access service purchased or funded by a public entity to publicly disclose accurate information regarding the network management practices, performance, and commercial terms of its broadband Internet access service that is sufficient to enable end users of those purchased or funded services, including a public entity, to fully and accurately ascertain if the service violates these prohibitions.

8. Senate Bill 998 (Dodd): Water shutoffs: urban and community water systems. (5/7/18 Version)

This bill specifies under what circumstances a water service provider can discontinue service due to nonpayment of a residential customer. This bill includes a number of provisions that apply to all water service providers with more than 200 service connections, expands the authority of the State Water Resources Control Board to address service access issues, and provides the Attorney General with authority to enforce the provisions, including through temporary injunction.

9. Senate Bill 1072 (Leyva): Regional Climate Collaborative Program: technical assistance. (4/25/18 Version)

This bill would establish a regional climate collaborative program, to be administered by the Strategic Growth Council, to assist under-resourced communities, as defined, in a region to access statewide public and other grant moneys, as specified, for climate mitigation and adaptation projects by establishing collaboratives, as specified. The bill would authorize the council to award specified grants to collaboratives for specified activities.

10. Senate Bill 1135 (Bradford): Electric and gas service: rates: California Alternate Rates for Energy program. (5/1/18 Version)

This bill would make electric and gas customers with annual household incomes that are no greater than 250% of the federal poverty guideline levels eligible for the California Alternate Rates for Energy program.

11. Senate Bill 1358 (Hueso): Public Utilities Commission: proceedings: hearings. (5/25/18 Version)

Requires the assigned commissioner, rather than the commission, to determine, as part of the scoping memo, whether the proceeding requires a hearing and would make conforming changes to related provisions..