**Legislative Update – Office of Governmental Affairs**

*Bills of Interest to the Low Income Oversight Board*

*Friday, August 11th, 2017*

**1.** [**Assembly Bill 523**](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB523) **(Reyes): Electric Program Investment Charge: Allocation**

This bill would require the California Energy Commission (CEC) to allocate at least 25% of the funding from the technology demonstration and deployment portion of the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) program to projects at sites located in, or and benefiting, disadvantaged communities. The bill would require the CEC to allocate at least an additional 10% of the funding from the technology demonstration and deployment portion the EPIC program at sites located in, or and benefiting, low- income communities, as defined. The bill would also require the CEC to generally give preference for funding to clean energy projects under the EPIC program that benefit residents of low-income or disadvantaged communities.

**2.** [**Assembly Bill 797**](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB797) **(Irwin): Solar Thermal Systems**

This bill would modify the Solar Thermal Water Heating program to, among other things, promote the installation of solar thermal systems throughout the state, and reserve 50 percent of the remaining total program budget for the installation of these systems in low-income residential housing or in buildings in disadvantaged communities. Furthermore, this bill would require an assessment of the cost- effectiveness of the entire program through July 31, 2019, to be completed by December 31, 2019, and extend the operation of the program through July 31, 2020.

**3.** [**Assembly Bill 803**](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB803) **(Quirk): Energy: Low-Income Energy Efficiency Programs**

This bill would require the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to conduct an assessment of the needs of low-income electricity and gas ratepayers and to consider whether existing programs adequately address low-income electricity and gas customers’ energy expenditures, hardship, language needs, and economic burdens, not less often than every fifth year, instead of every third year. In

addition, this bill would require this combination with existing programs, customers’ concerns.

assessment to consider whether available technologies, in adequately address those low-income electricity and gas

**4.** [**Assembly Bill 1082**](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB1082) **(Burke):**

**Infrastructure: Schools**

**Transportation Electrification: Electric Vehicle Charging**

This bill would require large electrical corporations (i.e. electric investor owned utilities) to file with the CPUC, by July 30, 2018, a program proposal for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations at school facilities, giving priority to schools located in disadvantaged communities. The bill would require the CPUC to review and approve, or modify and approve, the program proposals filed by large electrical corporations by December 31, 2018.

**5.** [**Senate Bill 598**](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB598) **(Hueso): Public Utilities: Disconnections**

This bill would require the CPUC to develop policies, rules, or regulations to reduce natural gas and electric service disconnections for nonpayment by residential customers by January 1, 2024 to levels reported in 2010. This bill would also require the CPUC to prioritize the provision of universal natural gas and electric service to every residential household by, among other actions, assessing the impact of a proposed increase in a utility revenue requirement or rates on disconnections for nonpayment. The bill would also require the CPUC to include in a report to the Legislature information on residential and household natural gas and electric service disconnections, disaggregated by certain customer categories.

Furthermore, this bill would require the CPUC to adopt residential utility disconnections for nonpayment as a metric and incorporate the metric into the General Rate Case Proceedings, and would require a natural gas or electrical corporation to incorporate the metric adopted by the CPUC in all of its reports that measure or address service reliability, public safety, and affordability. Finally, the bill would prohibit a natural gas or electrical corporation from disconnecting service for nonpayment by a residential customer dependent on life-support equipment who satisfies certain conditions.

**Bills Recommended from the LIOB Subcommittee**

**6.** [**Assembly Bill 1070**](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB1070) **(Gonzalez-Fletcher):** **Solar energy systems: contracts: disclosures**

This bill would afford a consumer who enters into a contract for sale, financing, or lease of a solar energy system a period not exceeding 3 days, during which time he or she may cancel the contract for any reason.

The California Constitution establishes the Public Utilities Commission and authorizes the commission to exercise ratemaking and rulemaking authority over all public utilities, as defined, subject to control by the Legislature. This bill would require the Public Utilities Commission to develop a standard methodology to be used in the calculation and presentation of electric utility bill savings to a consumer that can be expected by using a solar energy system by vendors, installers, or financing entities and to post the methodology on its Internet Web site. The bill also would require electrical corporations to post the methodology.

**7.** [**Senate Bill 700**](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB700) **(Wiener): Energy Storage Initiative**

This bill would require the PUC to establish the Energy Storage Initiative to provide rebates to customers of electrical corporations for the installation of energy storage systems consistent with certain requirements. The bill would require the PUC to conduct a proceeding to determine an annual amount of moneys, within specified bounds, from calendar year 2018 through December 31, 2027, to be collected by electrical corporations to fund the Energy Storage Initiative. The bill would authorize the PUC to modify incentive levels and to limit eligibility based on income levels for residential applicants to ensure market transformation and the achievement of other goals of the Energy Storage Initiative. The bill would require each local publicly owned electric utility with a specified number of service connections and each electrical cooperative with a specified electrical demand, on or before December 1, 2018, to establish an Energy Storage Initiative and to submit the budget for the initiative to the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission. Because this bill would increase the duties of local publicly owned electric utilities, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

**8.** [**Senate Bill 692**](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB692) **(Allen): Transmission: transmission and wheeling access charges**

This bill would require the ISO to undertake a stakeholder initiative to consider modification of the billing determinants to which the operator applies the transmission and wheeling access charges, as specified. The bill would require the ISO, by June 30, 2018, to submit to FERC proposed modifications of the billing determinants for approval. The bill would require the ISO to fully implement any modification approved by FERC within one year of the date of approval.

**9.** [**Assembly Bill 1431**](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB1431) **(Arambula):** In committee: Held under submission (5-27-17)