



## California Public Utilities Commission

### Legislative Update – Office of Governmental Affairs

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*Bills of Interest to the Low Income Oversight Board  
Meeting - Wednesday March 15, 2017*

#### **1. Assembly Bill 397(Gipson): Public Utilities: Facility Modernization**

This bill would require the California Public Utilities Commission to require an electrical or gas corporation to give preference to the modernization of its facilities serving disadvantaged communities if the corporation is authorized to collect ratepayer funds for the modernization of its facilities.

#### **2. Assembly Bill 797 (Irwin): Solar Thermal Systems**

This bill would revise the current Solar Thermal Water Heating program to, among other things, promote the installation of solar thermal systems throughout the state, set the maximum funding for the program between January 1, 2018, and July 31, 2023, at \$250,000,000, reserve 50% of the total program budget for the installation of solar thermal systems in low-income residential housing or in buildings in disadvantaged communities, and extend the operation of the program through July 31, 2023.

#### **3. Assembly Bill 803 (Quirk): Energy: Low-Income Energy Efficiency Programs**

This bill would require the California Public Utilities Commission 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 assessment to consider whether available technologies, in combination with existing programs, adequately address those low-income electricity and gas customers' concerns.

#### **4. Assembly Bill 1198 (Dahle): Net Energy Metering**

For the purposes of the existing statute that requires every electric utility to develop a standard contract or tariff providing for net energy metering, this bill would reference disadvantaged communities as defined in Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code.

#### **5. Assembly Bill 1263 (E. Garcia): Communications Infrastructure**

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to improve communications infrastructure and access and to specifically address the resources servicing low-income and disadvantaged communities.

## **6. Assembly Bill 1431 (Arambula): Energy Efficiency: Renewable Energy Resources**

This bill would require the California Energy Commission, California Public Utilities Commission, Department of Community Services and Development, and State Department of Social Services to develop common metrics for measuring the effectiveness of their respective programs to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy resources, or energy rate affordability that are targeted toward low-income consumers and disadvantaged communities.

This bill would further require the California Public Utilities Commission, Department of Community Services and Development, and State Department of Social Services to annually report to the California Energy Commission on the performance of their respective programs based upon the metrics developed, and would require the California Energy Commission to include a summary of the reports in the Integrated Energy Policy Report.

Finally, this bill would require the California Energy Commission to develop a database broken down by ZIP Code or other available organizational means that will enable the California Energy Commission to respond accurately to an individual legislator who seeks information as to the results of programs to promote energy efficiency, promote utilization of renewable energy resources, or provide rate assistance to low-income consumers and disadvantaged communities within the district that the individual legislator represents.

## **7. Senate Bill 598 (Hueso): Public Utilities: Disconnections**

This bill would require the California Public Utilities Commission to develop policies, rules, or regulations to reduce natural gas and electric service disconnections for nonpayment by residential customers by 50% by 2021, as specified. This bill would also require the California Public Utilities Commission to prioritize 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 require the California Public Utilities Commission to include in a report to the Legislature information on residential and household natural gas and electric service disconnections, disaggregated by certain customer categories.

This bill would require the California Public Utilities Commission to adopt residential utility disconnections for nonpayment as a metric and incorporate the metric into certain proceedings, and would require a natural gas or electrical corporation to incorporate the metric adopted by the California Public Utilities Commission 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.