



## California Public Utilities Commission

### Legislative Bill Update – Office of Governmental Affairs

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*Bills of Interest to the Low-Income Oversight Board  
Meeting – Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

On Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup> the Legislature concluded the 2021 legislative year. Several bills of interest to the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB) were passed by the Legislature and are now awaiting action by the Governor. These bills include -

#### **1. Assembly Bill 14 (Aguiar-Curry) – California Advanced Services Fund and Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program**

This bill would change to the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF), the Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program (DDTP) and the surcharge collection mechanism for Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers. This is a companion bill to SB 4 (Gonzalez) and would only become effective if that bill is enacted and takes effect on or before January 1, 2022.

#### **2. Assembly Bill 74 (Lorena Gonzalez) – California Lifeline Program**

This bill would require the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to make various changes to the enrollment and recertification process for California’s Lifeline program.

#### **3. Assembly Bill 1058 (C. Garcia) - Water corporations: bill payment options**

This bill would extend an existing credit-card payment pilot program for water corporations until January 1, 2027; would require the commission, in consultation with the LIOB to submit another report relative to the pilot program by July 1, 2025.

#### **4. Senate Bill 4 (Gonzalez) – California Advanced Services Fund**

This bill would extend the operation of the CASF program through 2032, increases the annual funding cap for the CASF, and expands projects eligible for CASF grants to include fund broadband deployment at unserved locations used for emergency response.

#### **5. Senate Bill 394 (Hueso): California Lifeline Program**

This bill would revise the definition of a “household” for the California Lifeline program and would authorize multiple Lifeline service telephone subscribers to maintain the same address if they are not members of the

same household. Both of these statutory changes align with currently California Lifeline program rules and Federal Communication Commission (FCC) rules for the Federal Lifeline program.

#### **6. Senate Bill 756 (Hueso) - Home Weatherization for low-income customers**

This bill would expand and redefines "low-income customers" for eligibility purposes of the Energy Savings Assistance program to mean low-income persons and families whose household income is at or below 250% of the federal poverty level.

#### **7. Senate Bill 1250 (Dodd) – Small and Failing Water System Consolidation**

This bill would establish expedited review and approval timeframes, criteria and requirements for CPUC regulated water or sewer system corporations filing Applications and Advice Letters to consolidate with high-risk and failing water systems.