



California Public Utilities Commission

Legislative Bill Update – Office of Governmental Affairs

Bills of Interest to the Low-Income Oversight Board: Legislative Subcommittee Meeting – Monday May 16th, 2022

The deadline for the Senate and Assembly appropriations committees to hear and report on introduced bills is Friday, May 20th. Several bills of interest to the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB) are active and summarized below:

1. Assembly Bill 2316 (Ward) - Community Renewable Energy Program

This bill would require the CPUC to establish the Community Renewable Energy Program for customers of an electric investor-owned utility to subscribe to and receive bill credits from electricity generated by a community renewable energy facility. The bill would require the CPUC to establish program implementation requirements within 5 months of the establishment of the program. The bill would require the CPUC to evaluate and consider the financing of community renewable energy facilities and the availability of bill credits for subscribers and establish financial incentives to exclusively support subscriptions by low-income customers or low-income service organization subscribers.

Status: *Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.*

2. Assembly Bill 2419 (Bryan) - Environmental justice: federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

This bill would require a minimum of 40% of funds received by the state under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and other federal funds to be allocated to projects that provide direct benefits to disadvantaged communities and a minimum of an additional 10% be allocated for projects that provide direct benefits to low-income households and low-income communities. The bill would establish the Justice40 Oversight Committee in the Office of Planning and Research to perform various actions related to the expenditure of those federal funds. The bill would require the committee, by December 31, 2024, to provide an interim report, and by December 31, 2027, to provide a final report on the expenditure of the federal funds

Status: *Placed on Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File.*

3. Assembly Bill 2750 (Bonta) - Department of Technology: digital equity plan

This bill would require the Department of Technology (CDT), in consultation with the public, the CPUC, and the California Broadband Council, to develop a state digital equity plan. The bill would require that the plan include the identification of barriers to digital equity faced by specified populations and measurable objectives towards documenting and promoting digital equity among those populations. The bill would

require CDT to seek all available federal funding (presumably this is referencing Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding) for purposes of developing and implementing the plan.

Status: Placed on Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File.

4. Assembly Bill 2751 (E. Garcia) - Affordable Internet and Net Equality Act of 2022

This bill would require the CDT, in coordination with the CPUC and the Department of General Services, to develop and establish the Net Equality Program. The bill would require the state and state agencies, except the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Office of Emergency Services, to only do business with an internet service provider offering affordable home internet service to households participating in certain public assistance programs. The bill would define affordable home internet service to mean internet service costing no more than \$40 per month and that meets specified minimum speed requirements. The bill would require these internet service providers to establish a telephone number to sign up eligible households and would require these providers to advertise the availability of affordable home internet service, among other requirements placed on these providers.

Status: Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.

5. AB 2765 (Santiago) – Public Utilities Public Purpose Programs Fund

This bill would establish the Public Utilities Public Purpose Programs Fund, and would, upon appropriation, require the CPUC to allocate the moneys in the fund for purposes of funding programs funded through an electrical corporation’s public purpose program rate component as of September 1, 2022, other programs determined by the CPUC to provide public benefits, and programs that enhance electrical system reliability and provide in-state benefits, except the Family Electric Rate Assistance program and the CARE program. If the CPUC determines that the Legislature has not appropriated sufficient moneys for those purposes, the bill would authorize the CPUC to authorize electrical corporations to recover the costs of those programs from ratepayers.

Status: Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.

6. Senate Bill 1020 (Laird, Caballero, Durazo, and Atkins) - Clean Energy, Jobs, and Affordability Act of 2022.

This bill requires new interim targets for renewable and zero-carbon resources to supply 90% of all retail sales of electricity by December 31st, 2035, 95% of all retail sales of electricity by the end of 2040, and 100% of electricity procured to serve all state agencies by December 31st, 2030. The bill also establishes the California Affordable Decarbonization Authority to administer a new Climate and Equity Trust Fund to support decarbonization and equity initiatives and to assist electricity customers in disadvantaged communities.

Status: Placed on Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File.

7. Senate Bill 1188 (Laird) - Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: financial assistance

This bill would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board to provide reduced or 0% financing to further the purposes of the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Law of 1997. The bill would remove the requirement that a water system serve a severely disadvantaged community in order to be provided with up to 100% grant funding or principal forgiveness and instead authorize providing that grant funding or

principal forgiveness to certain other water systems. This bill would delete the existing authorization to provide grant or principal forgiveness to those water systems only to the extent the board finds the water system is unable to repay the full costs of the financing. The bill would also delete limitations on the financial assistance provided to water corporations regulated by the CPUC.

Status: *Placed on Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File.*

8. Senate Bill 1208 (Hueso) - Public Utilities Commission: commission-approved low-income customer assistance programs: universal application process

This bill would require the CPUC, by June 30, 2023, to develop a streamlined universal application process to enable a customer to simultaneously apply to multiple low-income utility customer assistance programs.

Status: *Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee, set for hearing on May 16th*

9. Senate Bill 1213 (Hueso) - Public Utilities Commission and State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission: public outreach: community-based organizations

This bill would require the CPUC and California Energy Commission (CEC) to collaborate to develop and maintain a list of community-based organizations to help ensure adequate public outreach regarding available programs and incentives. The bill also would require the CPUC and CEC to work with existing committees, boards, and community-based organizations in developing the list.

Status: *In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.*