

7/21/22 LIOB Meeting: Item 11

LIEAP & Legislative Subcommittee Recommendations

Action Item

Bills to Support

- 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, 2024, to develop a process to enable a customer to concurrently apply to multiple low-income utility customer assistance programs.
 - Coordinates with UAS Working Group
 - Status: Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee, hearing set for August 3.

Bills to Support

- 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: Status: Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee, hearing set for August 3.

Bills to Consider

- 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 submit an interim report, and by December 31, 2027, to submit a final report on the expenditure of the federal funds to the Legislature.
 - Status: Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee, hearing set for August 1.

Bills to Consider

- Assembly Bill 2316 (Ward) - Community Renewable Energy Program
 - This bill would require the CPUC, by March 31, 2023, to establish a community renewable energy program, and require that the program complies with specified photovoltaic requirements, ensure at least 51% of its subscribers are low-income customers or low-income service organizations, minimize impacts to nonsubscriber ratepayers, and provide bill credits to subscribers.
 - The bill requires the CPUC to evaluate customer renewable energy subscription programs to determine if those programs meet those criteria, efficiently serve distinct customer groups, minimize duplicative offerings, and promote robust participation by low-income customers, and to authorize the termination or modification of those programs that are duplicative or do not meet those criteria. The bill would require the CPUC by December 31, 2023, to report to the Legislature the results of its evaluation and its justification for terminating, modifying, or retaining those programs.
 - Status: Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee, hearing date not yet set.

Support **IF** Amended - 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: Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee, hearing set for August 3.

Support IF Amended - Senate Bill 1020

1. Our preference is that the public goods charge/low-income programs not be explicitly called out as an item for the public trust fund to offset
 1. ~~Suggest deleting section 19032 (a)(3) public purpose programs, energy efficiency programs, research and development, and low-income customer discounts~~
2. Ensuring that low-income and DAC stakeholders are consulted
 1. Section 19010(a) In consultation with the Low Income Oversight Board and Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group as authorized by Public Utilities Code Section 382.1 and the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015 (SB 350) respectively
..... , the commission and Energy Commission shall jointly authorize the establishment of the California Affordable Decarbonization Authority, ...
3. Ensuring board members live in or work on behalf of low-income and disadvantaged customers
 1. Section 19010(c)(1) , Three members shall be appointed by the Governor subject to Senate confirmation, two of which must live in or work on behalf of low-income and disadvantaged customers.
 2. Section 19010(c)(2),Two members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, each of which work on behalf of low-income and disadvantaged customers
 3. Section 19010(c)(3), Two members shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, each of which work on behalf of low-income and disadvantaged customers
4. Ensuring spending plans prioritize low-income and DAC communities
 1. Add Section 19030(b)(4) the spending plans shall prioritize bill relief and investments for low-income and disadvantaged communities

Clarification: Public Purpose Program Surcharge

- Media reports and press statements claimed this was a significant contributor to massive increases in energy costs
- IOU reports from the March 24, 2022 meeting showed the portion of increased energy costs attributable to PPP surcharges was a *net savings of \$0.03* to a cost of approximately \$2.
- Compared to the increases since December of last year, the committee felt this was not significant.
- This is a dangerous false narrative that suggests programs such as CARE, ESA and FERA, which provide lifelines to low-income families are a root cause to energy price increases.
- Legislation and budget proposal in the State Legislature were introduced based on this false narrative.
- The Committees recommend correcting the record citing the IOU presentation and other sources.

Proposed Next Steps

- Board considers joint committee recommendations
 - Discussion and any proposed changes
- Vote on recommendations following a motion and second
- Chairs of each committee and LIOB Chair draft letter to Commission, which shall conform to board vote
- Up to two other members of the board may join, but not required