



California Public Utilities Commission

Legislative Bill Update – Office of Governmental Affairs

*Bills of Interest to the Low-Income Oversight Board
Quarterly Meeting – Thursday September 29th, 2022*

The 2021-2022 Legislative Session concluded on August 31st. As summarized below, several bills of interest to the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB) passed and have been presented to the Governor. The last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature is September 30th.

1. Assembly Bill 2316 (Ward) - Public Utilities Commission: customer renewable energy subscription programs and the community renewable energy program.

Requires the CPUC to evaluate existing customer community renewable energy programs in order to modify and/or terminate these programs. This bill also requires the CPUC to determine whether it is beneficial to ratepayers to develop a new or modify a tariff or program for community renewable energy by an electrical corporation, based on specified criteria, including ensuring at least 51% of the energy capacity serves low-income customers.

Status: *Passed; Enrolled and presented to the Governor on September 9th*

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

This bill would require the Department of Technology (CDT), by January 1, 2024 and in consultation with the public, the CPUC, and the California Broadband Council, to develop a state digital equity plan. The bill would require the plan to include, among other things, the identification of barriers to digital equity faced by specified populations, including, among other barriers, the availability and affordability of access to fixed and wireless broadband technology.

The bill would additionally require the plan to include measurable objectives for documenting and promoting digital equity among those populations and an assessment of existing digital navigator programs. The bill would require the CDT, to the extent practicable, to obtain all available federal funding for purposes of developing and implementing the plan.

Status: *Passed; Enrolled and presented to the Governor on August 31st*

3. 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 31, 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 31, 2035.

This bill requires the CPUC, in coordination with the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB), to issue a joint reliability progress report reviewing system and local reliability, with a focus on summer reliability and energy and capacity procurement progress.

This bill also requires the CPUC to develop a definition on energy affordability and to use energy affordability metrics and affordability thresholds develop protections, incentives, discounts, or new programs to assist customers facing disconnections and to assess the impact of proposed rate increases on different types of residential customers.

Status: *Passed; Enrolled and presented to the Governor on September 2nd*

4. Senate Bill 1208 (Hueso) - Low-income utility customer assistance programs: concurrent application process.

This bill requires the CPUC, on or before June 30, 2024, in coordination with other relevant state agencies, that provide low-income electric or gas utility customer assistance programs, to develop a process that enables customers to concurrently apply, or begin to apply, to multiple low-income customer assistance programs.

This bill also requires the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB) to report to the Legislature on opportunity and process for expanding the third-party administrator (TPA) contract used for the California LifeLine program for purposes of facilitating enrollment between electric, water, gas, and communications low-income assistance programs.

Status: *Passed; Enrolled and presented to the Governor on September 13th*

5. 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 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: *Passed; Enrolled and presented to the Governor on September 6th*