



Low-Income Oversight Board

Legislative Subcommittee

July 23, 2024

The Honorable President and Commissioners
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
Sent via Email

Subject: LIOB Recommendations for Pending Legislation

Dear President Reynolds and Commissioners:

The Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB) Legislative Subcommittee is pleased to provide its recommendations on the pending legislation cited below. All of the recommendations included in this letter are consistent with the LIOB Charter, statute and previous LIOB actions.

Background

The LIOB is a statute-mandated board with a mission to advise the California Public Utilities Commission on low-income electric, gas and water customer programs and to serve as a liaison for the Commission to low-income customers and representatives. The LIOB's vision is to maximize the benefits of utility, state and federal low-income programs to improve the health, safety and comfort of low-income customers while reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Other responsibilities include advising on certain aspects of the Lifeline Program related to coordinated outreach with the CARE program and a statutory requirement to assist in periodic assessments of low-income rate payer need (the "LINA" study). To meet the fluid and unpredictable timelines for legislative and state budget issues that impact our programs, the LIOB established a Legislative Subcommittee to be the voice of the LIOB outside of regularly scheduled Board meetings.

To meet its statutory obligation to advise on timely Legislative matters, the LIOB scheduled a *Legislative Subcommittee* meeting on July 23, 2024, to discuss the recommendations below. These will be included in the next LIOB meeting's packet and potentially retroactively approved by the full Board.

LIOB Legislative Subcommittee Recommendations

AB 2672, as amended, Petrie-Norris. California Alternate Rates for Energy program: public housing authority owned or administered Homekey housing facilities.

This bill would require that the CARE program include public housing authority owned or administered Homekey housing facilities- where the residents of-the facility substantially meet the- CARE program's income eligibility requirements, as determined by the commission, and the account is in the name of Homekey or a nonprofit funded by Homekey. The bill would require the commission to authorize electrical corporations and gas corporations to offer discounts to those facilities and to establish a feasible process for certifying that the assistance is used for the direct benefit of the residents of those facilities.



Low-Income Oversight Board

Legislative Subcommittee

The LIOB Legislative Subcommittee supports AB 2672 and encourages the Commission to support the legislation.

SB 1130, as introduced, Bradford. Electricity: Family Electric Rate Assistance: reports.

This bill would expand eligibility for the FERA program by eliminating the requirement that a household consist of 3 or more persons. The bill would require the commission, by March 1, 2025, and each year thereafter, to require the state's 3 largest electrical corporations to report on their efforts to enroll customers in the FERA program. The bill would require the commission, by June 1, 2025, and each year thereafter, to review each electrical corporation's report to ensure it has sufficiently enrolled eligible households in the FERA program commensurate with the proportion of households the commission determines to be eligible within the electrical corporation's service territory. If the commission, in its review of a report, determines an electrical corporation has not sufficiently enrolled eligible households in the FERA program, the bill would require the commission to require the electrical corporation to develop a strategy and plan to sufficiently enroll eligible households within 3 years of the adoption of the strategy and plan.

Under existing law, a violation of the Public Utilities Act, or any order, decision, rule, direction, demand, or requirement of the commission, is a crime.

Because the provisions of this bill would be codified in the act and would require action by the commission, a violation of which would be a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

The LIOB Legislative Subcommittee supports SB 1130 and encourages the Commission to support the legislation.

Should you have any questions about these recommendations, please contact the Energy Division. Thank you for your consideration.

Kind Regards,

Patricia Watts
Legislative Subcommittee Chair

Robert Castaneda
Public Member Position

Benito Delgado Olson
LIOB Chairperson