

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1200

Introduced by Assembly Member Cardenas

February 23, 2001

An act to add Section 706 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to public utilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1200, as introduced, Cardenas. Public Utilities Commission.

Existing law authorizes the Public Utility Commission to supervise and regulate every public utility in the state and to do all things that are necessary and convenient in the exercise of that power and jurisdiction. Pursuant to its powers, the commission has issued orders and regulations.

This bill would require the commission to conduct a study as to the ways to amend, revise, and improve rules governing the handling of informal matters by the commission. The bill would expressly authorize the commission to revise the rules subject to the study without prior approval of the Legislature. The bill would require the commission to submit a report on the study to the Legislature on or before May 1, 2002.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares as follows:
- 2 (a) The people of California benefit when telecommunications
- 3 providers are permitted to offer new, enhanced, and improved

1 services to telecommunications consumers on the most expedited
2 basis possible.

3 (b) Telecommunications consumers in California further
4 benefit by increased equity and fairness in the regulation and
5 oversight of California's competitive telecommunications
6 markets.

7 SEC. 2. Section 706 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to
8 read:

9 706. (a) The commission shall conduct a study as to the ways
10 to amend, revise, and improve rules governing the handling of
11 informal matters by the commission. The issues to be addressed
12 shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

13 (1) How the commission's General Order No. 96-A relating to
14 the filing and posting of schedules of rates, rules, and contracts
15 should be revised to reflect major changes in telecommunications.

16 (2) How timeframes for reviewing matters at the commission
17 can be reduced.

18 (3) How to ensure equity in application of the rules among
19 competitors so that no provider has an undue competitive
20 advantage.

21 (4) How to ensure that new services can be brought to
22 customers as quickly as possible.

23 (5) How to provide more flexibility to utilities in providing
24 their services and meeting competition.

25 (6) What matters that are currently handled under an
26 application process should instead be handled under rules
27 governing informal filings.

28 (b) The commission may revise the rules studied in subdivision
29 (a) without prior approval of the Legislature.

30 (c) The commission shall submit a report on the study required
31 by subdivision (a) to the Legislature on or before May 1, 2002.

