

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 24, 2002

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 18, 2002

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2284**

**Introduced by Assembly Member ~~Horton~~ Goldberg**

February 20, 2002

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An act to add Section 710 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to public utilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2284, as amended, ~~Horton~~ *Goldberg*. Telephone corporations: employment.

The Public Utilities Act governs the rights and obligations of public utilities, including telephone corporations, and subjects them to regulation by the Public Utilities Commission.

This bill would provide that it is the preference of California, consistent with state and federal constitutional requirements, that the tasks and duties necessary for the rendering of intrastate telephone service by telephone corporations be performed by California residents. The bill would prohibit this preference from being used as a basis for any regulatory or civil action against a telephone corporation or as a basis for preference by the state in a contractual bidding process.

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

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

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Telephone corporations serve a vital function, providing basic infrastructure essential to the efficient conduct of commerce and societal interaction.

(b) Telephone corporations bear a heightened responsibility for contributing to the public interest.

(c) The public interest has been interpreted to include providing an adequate level of telecommunications service at a just and reasonable rate. This interpretation has not explicitly included a consideration of the benefits of telephone corporation employment to the state and its residents.

(d) Given the current poor economic climate and the high unemployment rate within the State of California, it is necessary and proper state policy to encourage the employment of Californians and discourage the employment of non-Californians by California's telephone corporations.

~~(e) The Public Utilities Commission has broad powers to regulate the practices and rates of telephone corporations.~~

SEC. 2. Section 710 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to read:

710. It is the preference of the State of California, consistent with the federal and state constitutions, that the tasks and duties necessary for the rendering of local telephone service within the state be performed by residents of California. This section shall not be used as a basis for any regulatory action or any civil action against any telephone corporation or as a basis for preference by the state in a contractual bidding process.