

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1104

Introduced by Assembly Member Levine

February 22, 2005

An act to add Article 6 (commencing with Section 8290) to Chapter 7 of Division 4 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to utility charges.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1104, as introduced, Levine. Utility charges: utility and cable billing practices.

Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission has regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations, gas corporations, telephone corporations, and water corporations. Existing law authorizes the commission to fix the rates and charges for every public utility, and requires that those rates and charges be just and reasonable. Existing law authorizes the commission, after a hearing, to require every public utility to construct, maintain, and operate utility facilities in a manner so as to promote and safeguard the health and safety of its employees, customers, and the public. Existing law additionally authorizes the commission, after a hearing, to require every cable television corporation to construct, maintain, and operate utility facilities in a manner so as to promote and safeguard the health and safety of its employees, customers, and the public.

This bill would require that every utility, including electrical corporations, gas corporations, telephone corporations, telecommunications carriers as defined under federal law, water corporations, cable television corporations, and cable operators as defined under federal law, cease billing a customer for additional services within 24 hours of receiving a request to immediately discontinue service. The bill would require that where the customer

requests that service be discontinued at a date specified in the future, the utility cease billing the customer for additional services as of midnight of the last day of service.

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. Article 6 (commencing with Section 8290) is added to Chapter 7 of Division 4 of the Public Utilities Code, to read:

Article 6. Utility and Cable Billing Practices.

8290. For purposes of this article, a utility shall mean all of the following:

- (a) An electric corporation, as defined in Section 218.
- (b) A water corporation, as defined in Section 241.
- (c) A telephone corporation, as defined in Section 234.
- (d) A telecommunications carrier, as defined in Section 153 of Title 47 of the United States Code.
- (e) A gas corporation, as defined in Section 222.
- (f) A cable television corporation, as defined in Section 215.5.
- (g) A cable operator, as defined in Section 522 of Title 47 of the United States Code.

8291. A utility shall cease billing a customer for additional services within 24 hours of receiving a request to immediately discontinue service. Where the customer requests that service be discontinued at a date specified in the future, the utility shall cease billing the customer for additional services as of midnight of the last day of service.