

**Introduced by Senator Battin**

February 17, 2005

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An act to add Section 1702.5 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to telecommunications.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 396, as introduced, Battin. Telecommunications: extended area service.

Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission has regulatory authority over public utilities and can establish its own procedures, subject to statutory limitations or directions and constitutional requirements of due process. The existing Public Utilities Act authorizes any person or corporation, and certain other entities, to bring a complaint before the commission claiming that a public utility is in violation of a provision of law or an order or rule of the commission, and imposes certain additional requirements upon the commission to entertain a complaint as to the reasonableness of any rates or charges of any gas, electrical, water, or telephone corporation. An existing decision of the commission prohibits the filing of new complaints to establish new extended area service routes in the state that allow the extension of the geographic reach of local toll-free telephone calls.

This bill would, notwithstanding that decision of the commission, require the commission to allow the filing of complaint cases seeking to establish new extended area service routes within the state.

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. Section 1702.5 is added to the Public Utilities  
2     Code, to read:  
3     1702.5. (a) Notwithstanding the commission's Decision  
4     Number 98-06-075, the commission shall allow the filing of  
5     complaint cases seeking to establish new extended area service  
6     routes within the state.  
7     (b) For the purposes of this section, "extended area service"  
8     means telephone service authorized in certain designated  
9     communities that extends the geographic reach of a local toll-free  
10    calling area.

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