

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 10, 1999
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 28, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 818

**Introduced by Assembly Member Knox
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alquist, Briggs, Calderon,
Cox, Kuehl, Longville, Romero, and Washington)**

February 24, 1999

An act to add Sections 7934, 7935, 7936, 7937, 7938, 7939, and 7940 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to telecommunications, *and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 818, as amended, Knox. New area codes.

Existing

(1) *Existing* federal law provides for a coordinator for California area code relief. Existing law establishes a process for that coordinator and providers, as defined, to develop an area code relief plan, as prescribed.

This bill would require the Public Utilities Commission to develop and implement any measures that it determines to be available for telecommunications service providers that possess telephone number prefixes to efficiently allocate telephone numbers within those prefixes. The bill would require the Public Utilities Commission to immediately request the Federal Communications Commission to

delegate to the state authority over telecommunications under specified federal communications law, to the extent that the delegation will permit the Public Utilities Commission to implement specified measures. The bill would require the Public Utilities Commission to request, and telecommunications providers to provide, certain information on telephone number use. The bill would require the Public Utilities Commission to prepare and submit to the Legislature a report on that information on or before July 1, 2001. The bill would require the Public Utilities Commission to impose certain requirements on telephone number assignments.

The bill would make related legislative findings and declarations.

(2) *The bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.*

Vote: ~~majority~~ ²/₃. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

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

1 SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited
2 as the Consumer Area Code Relief Act of 1999.

3 SEC. 2. Section 7934 is added to the Public Utilities
4 Code, to read:

5 7934. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
6 following:

7 (a) The number of area codes in this state has more
8 than doubled since 1991.

9 (b) The proliferation of area codes has caused undue
10 hardship on citizens of this state, who have begun to be
11 forced into new area codes after years of having the same
12 telephone number.

13 (c) That proliferation has substantially increased costs
14 to businesses, individuals, and government agencies.

15 (d) New area codes require the replacement of
16 business cards and letterhead stationery, and companies
17 must use employee time contacting their customers to
18 ensure that those customers are able to continue to reach
19 the affected company.



(e) The proliferation of area codes has also reduced worker productivity as employees begin using new and unfamiliar area codes.

(f) It is the policy of the Legislature that existing area codes should be preserved for as long as possible.

(g) It is the further policy of the Legislature that the hardship currently experienced by telecommunications customers as a result of the creation of new area codes should be alleviated.

(h) For all of the reasons stated above, it is necessary for the commission, as a public agency, to take all possible measures to protect area codes as a public resource, stop area code proliferation, and review their existing practice of establishing new area code regions and the creation of area code overlays.

SEC. 3. Section 7935 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to read:

7935. The commission shall develop and implement any measures it determines to be available for telecommunications service providers that possess prefixes to efficiently allocate telephone numbers within those prefixes.

SEC. 4. Section 7936 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to read:

7936. The Public Utilities Commission shall immediately request the Federal Communications Commission to delegate to the state authority over telecommunications numbering under Section 251(e)(1) of the Federal Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)(1)), to the extent that the delegation will permit the Public Utilities Commission to implement measures to conserve telephone numbers, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

(a) Establishing the minimum use and available efficiency measures for prefixes.

(b) Requiring telecommunications carriers to return unused or underused prefixes and to return prefixes that have been obtained in a manner contrary to federal or state numbering guidelines or protocols.

1 (c) Establishing individual number pooling,
2 mandatory pooling in 1000 telephone number blocks, and
3 interim unassigned number porting.

4 *SEC. 5. Section 7937 is added to the Public Utilities*
5 *Code, to read:*

6 7937. (a) On or before March 1, 2000, the commission
7 shall request from each telecommunications service
8 provider doing business in this state that possesses a
9 telephone number prefix, or a portion thereof, the
10 specific telephone numbers and the quantities within the
11 possession of the provider, both used and unused.

12 (b) Notwithstanding Section 7550.5 of the
13 Government Code, the commission shall use the
14 information obtained pursuant to subdivision (a) and any
15 other information required by the commission, to
16 prepare and submit to the Legislature, on or before, July
17 1, 2001, an audit of telecommunications industry use rates.

18 *SEC. 6. Section 7938 is added to the Public Utilities*
19 *Code, to read:*

20 7938. The commission shall require, as an interim
21 measure until the commission develops procedures for
22 number pooling, that number assignments made by
23 telecommunications service providers to their customers
24 shall be made first from prefixes that are more than 25
25 percent used. A telecommunications service provider
26 may assign numbers from prefixes with less than 25
27 percent use only to the extent necessary, if numbers from
28 prefixes that are more than 25 percent used are not
29 otherwise available.

30 *SEC. 7. Section 7939 is added to the Public Utilities*
31 *Code, to read:*

32 7939. If the commission establishes a process to ensure
33 that telephone numbers can be allocated in blocks
34 smaller than 10,000, the commission shall require that a
35 telecommunications service provider return to the North
36 American Numbering Plan Administrator blocks of
37 telephone numbers for reassignment, in a quantity
38 determined by the commission.

39 *SEC. 8. Section 7940 is added to the Public Resources*
40 *Code, to read:*

1 7940. A telecommunications service provider doing
2 business in this state that possesses one or more telephone
3 number prefixes, or portions thereof, shall provide to the
4 commission, upon request, use information pertaining to
5 both used and unused prefixes, according to any schedule
6 established by the commission.

7 *SEC. 9. This act is an urgency statute necessary for*
8 *the immediate preservation of the public peace, health,*
9 *or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the*
10 *Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts*
11 *constituting the necessity are:*

12 *In order to address as soon as possible the rapid*
13 *proliferation of new area codes, including the imposition*
14 *of planned area code overlays, which causes undue*
15 *hardship to the citizens of this state, it is necessary that*
16 *this act take effect immediately.*

