

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 15, 1999

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.

(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, *if it has not done so by the operative date of the bill*, 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~~ study on that information on or before July 1, 2001. *The bill would require the commission to require the suspension of 10-digit dialing within a specified area code until the completion of the study.* 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: 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

1 must use employee time contacting their customers to
2 ensure that those customers are able to continue to reach
3 the affected company.

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

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

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

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

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

21 7935. (a) The commission shall develop and
22 implement any measures it determines to be available for
23 telecommunications service providers that possess
24 prefixes to efficiently allocate telephone numbers within
25 those prefixes.

26 (b) *For the purpose of this section, in accordance with*
27 *the North American Numbering Plan, a telephone*
28 *number consists of a three digit area code or number plan*
29 *area (NPA), a three digit prefix or NXX code, and a four*
30 *digit line number.*

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

33 7936. ~~The~~ *If, on or before the operative date of the act*
34 *adding this section, the Public Utilities Commission has*
35 *not yet done so, the Public Utilities Commission shall*
36 *immediately request the Federal Communications*
37 *Commission to delegate to the state authority over*
38 *telecommunications numbering under Section 251(e)(1)*
39 *of the Federal Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C.*
40 *251(e)(1)), to the extent that the delegation will permit*

1 the Public Utilities Commission to implement measures
2 to conserve telephone numbers, including, but not
3 limited to, all of the following:

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

6 (b) Requiring telecommunications carriers to return
7 unused or underused prefixes *or portions of those*
8 *prefixes*, and to return prefixes that have been obtained
9 in a manner contrary to federal or state numbering
10 guidelines or protocols.

11 (c) Establishing individual number pooling, *and*
12 mandatory pooling in 1000 telephone number blocks, ~~and~~
13 ~~interim unassigned number porting.~~

14 SEC. 5. Section 7937 is added to the Public Utilities
15 Code, to read:

16 7937. (a) On or before March 1, 2000, the commission
17 shall request from each telecommunications service
18 provider doing business in this state that possesses a
19 ~~telephone number prefix, or a portion thereof, the one or~~
20 *more telephone number prefixes, or a portion thereof,*
21 *the specific telephone numbers and the quantities within*
22 *the possession of the provider, both used and unused in*
23 *use and not in use. The commission, for the purpose of this*
24 *section, shall define the terms "in use" and "not in use."*
25 *The commission shall determine the reporting*
26 *requirements for the information provided to the*
27 *commission pursuant to Section 7940.*

28 (b) Notwithstanding Section 7550.5 of the
29 Government Code, the commission shall use the
30 information obtained pursuant to subdivision (a) and any
31 other information required by the commission, to
32 prepare and submit to the Legislature, on or before, July
33 1, 2001, ~~an audit a study~~ of telecommunications industry
34 use rates. *The commission shall require 10-digit dialing*
35 *within the "310" area code to be suspended until the*
36 *completion of the study.*

37 SEC. 6. Section 7938 is added to the Public Utilities
38 Code, to read:

39 7938. The commission shall require, as an interim
40 measure until the commission develops procedures for

1 number pooling *or adopts utilization standards*, that
2 number assignments made by telecommunications
3 service providers to their customers shall be made first
4 from prefixes that are more than 25 percent ~~used~~ *in use*.
5 A telecommunications service provider may assign
6 numbers from prefixes with less than 25 percent use only
7 to the extent necessary, if numbers from prefixes that are
8 more than 25 percent ~~used~~ *in use* are not otherwise
9 available.

10 SEC. 7. Section 7939 is added to the Public Utilities
11 Code, to read:

12 7939. If the commission *or an authorized federal*
13 *agency* establishes a process to ensure that telephone
14 numbers can be allocated in blocks smaller than 10,000,
15 the commission shall require that a telecommunications
16 service provider return to the North American
17 Numbering Plan Administrator blocks of telephone
18 numbers for reassignment, in a quantity determined by
19 the commission.

20 SEC. 8. Section 7940 is added to the Public Resources
21 Code, to read:

22 7940. A telecommunications service provider doing
23 business in this state that possesses one or more telephone
24 number prefixes, or portions thereof, shall provide to the
25 commission, upon request, use information pertaining to
26 both ~~used and unused prefixes~~ *those prefixes in use and*
27 *those prefixes not in use*, according to any schedule
28 established by the commission.

29 SEC. 9. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the
30 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or
31 safety within the meaning of Article IV of the
32 Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts
33 constituting the necessity are:

34 In order to address as soon as possible the rapid
35 proliferation of new area codes, including the imposition
36 of planned area code overlays, which causes undue
37 hardship to the citizens of this state, it is necessary that
38 this act take effect immediately.

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