

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 17, 1999

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: *telephone number assignment*.

(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~~ *telephone corporations* that possess telephone number prefixes to

efficiently allocate telephone numbers within those prefixes. The bill would ~~require~~ *prohibit* 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 from authorizing or implementing any new area code splits or overlays, except for the implementation of technology specific area code overlays.~~ 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 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 codes.~~ The bill would require the Public Utilities Commission to ~~impose certain requirements on telephone number assignments~~ *implement 1,000 telephone number assignment, as prescribed, and to require telephone corporations to return unused 1,000 telephone number blocks, as prescribed.*

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: $\frac{2}{3}$. 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:



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

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

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

9 (d) New area codes require the replacement of
10 business cards and letterhead stationery, and companies
11 must use employee time contacting their customers to
12 ensure that those customers are able to continue to reach
13 the affected company.

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

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

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

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

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

31 7935. (a) The commission shall develop and
32 implement any measures it determines to be available for
33 ~~telecommunications—service—providers~~ *telephone*
34 *corporations* that possess prefixes to efficiently allocate
35 telephone numbers within those prefixes. *The*
36 *commission shall consider the cost effectiveness of these*
37 *measures before requiring implementation. Among the*
38 *measures the commission shall consider are rate center*
39 *reduction and unassigned number porting.*

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

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

~~7936. If, on or before the operative date of the act~~
(a) *Except as set forth in subdivision (b), the commission may not authorize or implement any additional area code splits or overlays.*

(b) *The commission shall immediately authorize and implement area codes overlays for existing area codes that are exclusively dedicated to commercial mobile radio service, paging, facsimile, and data telephone numbers.*

(c) *As used in this section, the "commercial mobile radio service" has the same meaning as the term "commercial mobile service," as defined in subsection (d) of Section 332 of Title 47 of the United States Code.*

~~adding this section, the Public Utilities Commission has not yet done so, 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 or portions of those prefixes, and to return prefixes that have been obtained in a manner contrary to federal or state numbering guidelines or protocols.~~

~~(c) Establishing individual number pooling and mandatory pooling in 1000 telephone number blocks.~~

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

7937. (a) On or before March 1, 2000, the commission shall request from each ~~telecommunications service provider~~ *telephone corporation* doing business in this state that possesses one or more telephone number prefixes, or a portion thereof, the specific telephone numbers and the quantities within the possession of the provider, both in use and not in use. The commission, for the purpose of this section, shall define the terms “in use” and “not in use.” The commission shall determine the reporting requirements for the information provided to the commission pursuant to Section 7940.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 7550.5 of the Government Code, the commission shall use the information obtained pursuant to subdivision (a) and any other information required by the commission, to prepare and submit to the Legislature, on or before, July 1, 2001, a study of telecommunications industry use rates. The commission shall require 10-digit dialing within the “310” area code ~~to be suspended until the completion of the study~~ and the “424” area code ~~overlay to be suspended~~.

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

7938. The commission shall require, as an interim measure until the commission develops procedures for number pooling or adopts utilization standards, that number assignments made by ~~telecommunications service providers~~ *telephone corporations* to their customers shall be made first from prefixes that are more than 25 percent in use. A ~~telecommunications service provider~~ *telephone corporation* may assign numbers from prefixes with less than 25 percent use only to the extent necessary, if numbers from prefixes that are more than 25 percent in use are not otherwise available.

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

7939. ~~If the commission or an authorized federal agency establishes a process to ensure that telephone~~

1 ~~numbers can be allocated in blocks smaller than 10,000,~~
2 ~~the commission shall require that a telecommunications~~
3 ~~service provider return to the North American~~
4 ~~Numbering Plan Administrator blocks of telephone~~
5 ~~numbers for reassignment, in a quantity determined by~~
6 ~~the commission.~~ (a) *The commission shall implement*
7 *1,000 telephone number block assignments as soon as*
8 *technically feasible. The commission shall order*
9 *telephone corporations to request telephone numbers in*
10 *1,000 number blocks.*

11 (b) *The commission shall order telephone*
12 *corporations to return unused 1,000 telephone number*
13 *blocks to the North American Numbering Plan*
14 *Administrator. The commission, for the purposes of this*
15 *section, shall define "unused."*

16 SEC. 8. Section 7940 is added to the Public Resources
17 Utilities Code, to read:

18 7940. A ~~telecommunications~~ ~~service~~ ~~provider~~
19 *telephone corporation* doing business in this state that
20 possesses one or more telephone number prefixes, or
21 portions thereof, shall provide to the commission, upon
22 request, use information pertaining to both those prefixes
23 in use and those prefixes not in use, according to any
24 schedule established by the commission.

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

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