

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 25, 1999

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~~ *an administrator* for California area code relief. Existing law establishes a process for that ~~coordinator~~ *administrator* 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 telephone corporations that possess telephone number prefixes to efficiently allocate telephone numbers within those prefixes, *as prescribed*. ~~The bill would prohibit the Public Utilities Commission 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 specified area codes. The bill would require, if authorized as prescribed, telephone corporations to return blocks of telephone numbers, as prescribed.~~ The bill would require the Public Utilities Commission to implement 1,000 telephone number assignment, ~~as prescribed, and to require telephone corporations to return unused 1,000 telephone number blocks, as prescribed~~ direct the North American Numbering Plan Administrator to seek the return of blocks of numbers smaller than 10,000, *as prescribed*, and also to obtain specified information prior to addressing area code relief, *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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 7935. (a) The commission shall develop and
30 implement any measures it determines to be available for
31 telephone corporations that possess prefixes to efficiently
32 allocate telephone numbers within those prefixes. The
33 commission shall consider the cost effectiveness of these
34 measures before requiring implementation. Among the
35 measures the commission shall consider are rate center
36 ~~reduction~~ *consolidation, allocation of numbers in blocks*
37 *smaller than 10,000*, and unassigned number porting.

38 (b) For the purpose of this section, in accordance with
39 the North American Numbering Plan, a telephone
40 number consists of a three digit area code or number plan

1 area (NPA), a three digit prefix or NXX code, and a four
2 digit line number.

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

5 ~~7936. (a) Except as set forth in subdivision (b), the~~
6 ~~commission may not authorize or implement any~~
7 ~~additional area code splits or overlays.~~

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

13 ~~(c) As used in this section, the “commercial mobile~~
14 ~~radio service” has the same meaning as the term~~
15 ~~“commercial mobile service,” as defined in subsection~~
16 ~~(d) of Section 332 of Title 47 of the United States Code.~~

17 *7936. The commission shall direct the North*
18 *American Numbering Plan Administrator to obtain*
19 *utilization data for any area code for which a relief plan*
20 *is proposed, prior to adopting a plan for, or setting a date*
21 *for, relief.*

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

24 7937. (a) On or before March 1, 2000, the commission
25 shall request from each telephone corporation doing
26 business in this state that possesses one or more telephone
27 number prefixes, or a portion thereof, the specific
28 telephone numbers and the quantities within the
29 possession of the provider, both in use and not in use. The
30 commission, for the purpose of this section, shall define
31 the terms “in use” and “not in use.” The commission shall
32 determine the reporting requirements for the
33 information provided to the commission pursuant to
34 Section 7940.

35 (b) Notwithstanding Section 7550.5 of the
36 Government Code, the commission shall use the
37 information obtained pursuant to subdivision (a) and any
38 other information required by the commission, to
39 prepare and submit to the Legislature, on or before, July
40 1, 2001, a study of telecommunications industry use rates.

~~The commission shall require 10-digit dialing within the “310” area code 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 telephone corporations to their customers shall be made first from prefixes that are more than 25 percent in use. A 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. (a) ~~The commission shall implement 1,000 telephone number block assignments as soon as technically feasible. The commission shall order telephone corporations to request telephone numbers in 1,000 number blocks.~~

(b) ~~The commission shall order telephone corporations to return unused 1,000 telephone number blocks to the North American Numbering Plan Administrator. The commission, for the purposes of this section, shall define “unused.”~~

(a) If the commission or an authorized federal agency establishes a process to ensure that telephone numbers can be allocated in blocks smaller than 10,000, the commission shall require that a telephone corporation return to the North American Numbering Plan Administrator blocks of telephone numbers for reassignment, in a quantity determined by the commission.

(b) The commission shall direct the North American Numbering Plan Administrator to seek the return of blocks of numbers smaller than 10,000 not in use. The commission, for purposes of this section, shall define “not in use.”

1 SEC. 8. Section 7940 is added to the Public Utilities
2 Code, to read:

3 7940. A telephone corporation doing business in this
4 state that possesses one or more telephone number
5 prefixes, or portions thereof, shall provide to the
6 commission *or its agent*, upon request, use information
7 pertaining to both those prefixes in use and those prefixes
8 not in use, according to any schedule established by the
9 commission.

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

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

