

PROPOSED CONFERENCE REPORT NO. 1
SEPTEMBER 3, 1999

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, *Strom-Martin*, and
Washington)

February 24, 1999

An act to add Sections 7934, 7935, 7936, 7937, 7938, 7939, ~~and 7940 to 7940, and 7942 to, and to add and repeal Section 7941 of,~~ 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~~

Existing federal law provides for an administrator for California area code relief. Existing law establishes a process for that 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 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, if authorized as prescribed, telephone corporations to return blocks of telephone numbers, as prescribed. The bill would require the Public Utilities Commission to direct the ~~North American Numbering Plan Administrator~~ coordinator 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.

This bill would prohibit the commission from implementing new area codes until a study is conducted and specified findings are made. The bill would also require the commission to request a waiver from the Federal Communications Commission as prescribed.

This bill would, until September 1, 2000, rescind any split or overlay and 10-digit dialing in the 310 number plan area until specified conditions are met.

This bill would require the commission to establish an education plan on area codes, 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: $\frac{2}{3}$ —majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(d) New area codes require the replacement of business cards and letterhead stationery, and companies must use employee time contacting their customers to ensure that those customers are able to continue to reach 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. (a) The commission shall develop and implement any measures it determines to be available for

1 telephone corporations that possess prefixes to efficiently
2 allocate telephone numbers within those prefixes. The
3 commission shall consider the cost effectiveness of these
4 measures before requiring implementation. Among the
5 measures the commission shall consider are rate center
6 consolidation, allocation of numbers in blocks smaller
7 than 10,000, and unassigned number porting.

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

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

15 ~~7936. The commission shall direct the North~~
16 ~~American Numbering Plan Administrator to obtain~~
17 ~~utilization data for any area code for which a relief plan~~
18 ~~is proposed, prior to adopting a plan for, or setting a date~~
19 ~~for, relief.~~

20 7936. (a) *The commission shall direct the*
21 *coordinator to obtain utilization data for any area code*
22 *prior to proposing or implementing an area code relief*
23 *plan.*

24 (b) *The commission shall request a waiver from the*
25 *Federal Communications Commission of the*
26 *requirement for ten-digit dialing in area code overlays.*

27 (c) *The commission may not implement an area code*
28 *relief plan in an area code until all the following*
29 *conditions are met:*

30 (1) *The commission completes a study of the*
31 *utilization information gathered pursuant to subdivision*
32 *(a).*

33 (2) *Notwithstanding Section 7550.5 of the*
34 *Government Code, the study is submitted to the*
35 *Legislature.*

36 (3) *The conclusions of the study demonstrate that a*
37 *new area code is needed.*

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

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

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, a study 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 or adopts utilization standards, that
23 number assignments made by telephone corporations to
24 their customers shall be made first from prefixes that are
25 more than 25 percent in use. A telephone corporation
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 in use are not
29 otherwise available.

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

32 7939. (a) If the commission or an authorized federal
33 agency establishes a process to ensure that telephone
34 numbers can be allocated in blocks smaller than 10,000,
35 the commission shall require that a telephone
36 corporation return to the North American Numbering
37 Plan Administrator blocks of telephone numbers for
38 reassignment, in a quantity determined by the
39 commission.

(b) The commission shall direct the ~~North American~~
~~Numbering Plan Administrator~~ *coordinator* 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.”

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

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

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

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

SEC. 9. Section 7941 is added to the Public Utilities
Code, to read:

7941. (a) Any split or overlay and ten-digit dialing in
the 310 number plan area is hereby rescinded until all of
the following conditions have been met:

(1) The commission directs the coordinator to obtain
utilization data for the 310 number plan area.

(2) The commission reviews the data to determine
how many unused telephone numbers exist that could be
distributed to consumers in need of numbers.

(3) The commission determines, based on the
utilization data, that without implementation of a split or
overlay within the 310 area code, consumers will be
unable to receive telephone service in a timely manner.

(b) This section shall remain in effect only until
September 1, 2000, and as of that date is repealed, unless

1 *a later enacted statute, that is enacted before September*
2 *1, 2000, deletes or extends that date.*

3 *SEC. 10. Section 7942 is added to the Public Utilities*
4 *Code, to read:*

5 *7942. (a) The commission shall develop and*
6 *implement a consumer education plan to alert consumers*
7 *to the need for area code relief and to provide consumers*
8 *with information regarding how they can participate in*
9 *the area code decisionmaking process.*

10 *(b) The commission shall develop a comprehensive*
11 *plan to alert consumers, including homeowners*
12 *organizations and small business groups, to information*
13 *regarding the type and timing of any area code relief plan*
14 *proposed for their area.*

15 *SEC. 11. The provisions of this act are severable. If*
16 *any provision of this act or its application is held invalid,*
17 *that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or*
18 *applications that can be given effect without the invalid*
19 *provision or application.*

