

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 5, 2000

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 994

Introduced by Assembly Member Wright

February 25, 1999

~~An act to add Section 9601.5 to the Public Utilities Code, An act relating to public utilities.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 994, as amended, R. Wright. ~~Electrical restructuring: local publicly owned electric utilities—Rural telephone cooperatives.~~

Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission regulates public utilities.

This bill would require the commission to prepare and submit to the Governor and the Legislature a report on the feasibility of establishing rural telephone cooperatives in the state, as prescribed.

~~Existing law governing electrical restructuring imposes certain obligations and restrictions on local publicly owned electrical utilities, as defined.~~

~~This bill would prohibit a local publicly owned electric utility from providing electric service to a retail customer of an electrical corporation, unless the governing body of the local publicly owned electric utility finds that any cost benefits derived through public financing or other public subsidies, including, but not limited to, those cost benefits derived in accordance with specified federal law, will be directly passed~~

~~on to those retail customers that receive electrical service from the local publicly owned electric utility. The bill would also prohibit the cost benefits from being transferred to any private entity.~~

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

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

1 ~~SECTION 1. Section 9601.5 is added to the Public~~
2 ~~SECTION 1. On or before January 1, 2002, the Public~~
3 ~~Utilities Commission shall prepare and submit to the~~
4 ~~Governor and the Legislature a report on the feasibility~~
5 ~~of establishing rural telephone cooperatives in the state.~~
6 ~~The commission shall include in the report~~
7 ~~recommendations concerning appropriate legislation.~~
8 ~~Utilities Code, to read:~~
9 ~~9601.5. A local publicly owned electric utility may not~~
10 ~~provide electric service to a retail customer of an~~
11 ~~electrical corporation, unless the governing body of the~~
12 ~~local publicly owned electric utility finds that any cost~~
13 ~~benefits derived through public financing or other public~~
14 ~~subsidies, including, but not limited to, those cost benefits~~
15 ~~derived in accordance with Section 141 of Title 26 of the~~
16 ~~United States Code, will be directly passed on to those~~
17 ~~retail customers that receive electrical service from the~~
18 ~~local publicly owned electric utility. The cost benefits~~
19 ~~may not, in whole or in part, be transferred to any private~~
20 ~~entity.~~