

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 17, 1999
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 26, 1999
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 8, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1149

Introduced by Assembly Member Aroner

February 25, 1999

An act relating to public utilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1149, as amended, Aroner. Underground electric and communications facilities.

Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission has regulatory authority over public utilities and, under that authority, has adopted ~~tariffs~~ *rules* for the replacement of overhead electric and communications facilities with underground facilities.

This bill would require the commission to conduct a study as to the ways to amend, *revise*, and improve those ~~tariffs~~ *rules*, as specified. *The commission would have the authority to revise these rules without prior approval of the Legislature.* The commission would be required to submit a report on the study to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2001.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Public Utilities Commission
2 shall conduct a study as to the ways to amend, *revise*, and
3 improve ~~tariffs~~ *rules* governing the replacement of
4 overhead electric and communications facilities with
5 underground facilities. The issues to be addressed shall
6 include, but not be limited to, all of the following:
7 (1) Discovering and eliminating barriers to
8 establishing continuity of the existing underground
9 system and ways to eliminate uneven patches of overhead
10 facilities.
11 (2) How to enhance public safety.
12 (3) How to improve reliability.
13 (4) How to provide more flexibility *and control* to local
14 governments.
15 (b) *The Public Utilities Commission may revise these*
16 *rules without prior approval of the Legislature.*
17 (c) Notwithstanding Section 7550.5 of the
18 Government Code, the Public Utilities Commission shall
19 submit a report on the study required by subdivision (a)
20 to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2001.

