Assembly Bill No. 1149

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Passed the Assembly   August 30, 1999

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Chief Clerk of the Assembly

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Passed the Senate   August 25, 1999

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Secretary of the Senate

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This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day

of _____, 1999, at _____ o'clock ____M.

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Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act relating to public utilities.

AB   1149,   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 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 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.

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

SECTION   1.   (a) The   Public   Utilities   Commission shall conduct a study as to the ways to amend, revise, and improve rules governing the replacement of overhead electric and communications facilities with underground facilities. The issues to be addressed shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(1) Discovering   and   eliminating   barriers   to establishing   continuity   of   the   existing   underground system and ways to eliminate uneven patches of overhead facilities.

(2) How to enhance public safety.

(3) How to improve reliability.

(4) How to provide more flexibility and control to local governments.

(b) The Public Utilities Commission may revise these rules without prior approval of the Legislature.

(c) Notwithstanding Section 7550.5 of the Government Code, the Public Utilities Commission shall submit a report on the study required by subdivision (a) to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2001.

Approved ———————————————, 1999

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Governor

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