

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 7, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1263

Introduced by Assembly Member Thomson

February 26, 1999

An act to add Section 2892.1 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to public utilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1263, as amended, Thomson. Telecommunications: "911" calls.

Existing law requires the Public Utilities Commission to require that every facilities-based cellular service provider provide access for end users on its system to the local emergency telephone services described in the Warren-911-Emergency Assistance Act, that they utilize the "911" code as the primary access number for those services, and that "911" calls from cellular units be routed to the nearest appropriate Department of the California Highway Patrol communications center.

This bill would ~~state that it is the intent of the Legislature to create a~~ *the* California Wireless 911 Task Force, consisting of representatives of the wireless telecommunications industry and state and local government, as specified. The bill would state that it is the intent of the Legislature that the task force review and recommend improvements to local emergency telephone services for wireless

telecommunications end users, as prescribed. The bill would make related legislative findings and declarations.

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

3 (a) Competition in the wireless telecommunications
4 industry has led to reduced prices, increased service
5 quality, and the significant growth of wireless telephone
6 usage.

7 (b) By the end of 1999, there will be over 7 million
8 wireless telecommunications customers in this state. The
9 wireless telecommunications industry has improved the
10 quality of life for its customers, has had a significant
11 impact on job creation and economic growth, and is
12 viewed by law enforcement as an important public safety
13 tool.

14 (c) Access to local emergency telephone systems that
15 use “911” as the emergency telephone number is
16 important for wireless telecommunications users and for
17 public safety in this state. In 1998, over 3 million “911”
18 calls were received from wireless telecommunications
19 devices by the Department of the California Highway
20 Patrol, which, by statute, receives all cellular telephone
21 “911” calls.

22 (d) The growth of wireless telecommunications use
23 has burdened dispatchers for the Department of the
24 California Highway Patrol and has led to delays in
25 answering and responding to calls.

26 (e) Unlike “911” calls on land-based telephone lines,
27 “911” calls from wireless telecommunications devices do
28 not provide the telephone number or the location of the
29 caller to the dispatcher. Wireless telecommunications
30 service providers and public safety officials are working
31 on the complex task of implementing these
32 enhancements to the local emergency telephone systems
33 for wireless telecommunications.



(f) The cooperation and coordination of wireless telecommunications service providers, public safety officials, law enforcement, state agencies, and local governments is crucial to improving local emergency telephone services for wireless telecommunications.

SEC. 2. Section 2892.1 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to read:

~~2892.1. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to create a California Wireless 911 Task Force, consisting of~~

2892.1. (a) The California Wireless 911 Task Force is hereby created, consisting of representatives of the wireless telecommunications industry, the Department of the California Highway Patrol, the Department of General Services, operators of local public safety answering points, and cities and counties.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature that the task force review and recommend improvements to local emergency telephone services for wireless telecommunications end users, including any statutory changes that the task force determines to be necessary to ensure that the appropriate infrastructure, laws, and regulations are in place to encourage full and expeditious integration of the local emergency telephone services for wireless telecommunications end users and the implementation of federal rules for enhanced “911” services for wireless telecommunications end users.