

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 15, 2000

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 7, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

## ASSEMBLY BILL

**No. 1263**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Thomson**

February 26, 1999

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An act to ~~add Section 2892.1~~ *repeal and add Section 2892* 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 a specified provision of 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. Existing law requires the commission to require that every cellular service provider include in its tariffs a provision to the effect that there shall be no airtime or similar usage charge for calls placed from a cellular unit to the emergency telephone services system.*

*This bill would require that a provider of commercial mobile radio service, as defined in specified federal law, provide access for end users of that service to the local emergency telephone systems described in the act, that “911” be the primary access number for those services, and that user validation, as specified, not be required. The bill would require that a provider of commercial mobile radio service not charge any airtime, access, or similar usage charge for any “911” call placed from a commercial mobile radio service telecommunications device to a local emergency telephone system. The bill would authorize a “911” call from a commercial mobile radio service telecommunications device to be routed to a public safety answering point other than the Department of the California Highway Patrol only if the alternate routing meets specified requirements.*

~~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 create 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: 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 *SECTION 1. Section 2892 of the Public Utilities Code*
- 3 *is repealed.*



~~2892. The commission shall, by rule or order, require that every facilities-based cellular service provider provide access for end users on its system to the local emergency telephone services described in Section 53100 of the Government Code, that they shall utilize the “911” code as the primary access number for those services, and that “911” calls from cellular units shall be routed to the nearest appropriate California Highway Patrol communications center. In addition, the commission, by rule or order, shall require that every cellular service provider include in its tariffs a provision to the effect that there shall be no airtime or similar usage charge for calls placed from a cellular unit to the emergency telephone services system.~~

*SEC. 2. Section 2892 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to read:*

*2892. (a) As used in this section, the term “commercial mobile radio service” has the same meaning as the term “commercial mobile service,” as defined in subsection (d) of Section 332 of Title 47 of the United States Code.*

*(b) A provider of commercial mobile radio service shall provide access for end users of that service to the local emergency telephone systems described in the Warren-911-Emergency Assistance Act (Article 6 (commencing with Section 53100) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 of the Government Code). “911” shall be the primary access number for those emergency systems. A provider of commercial mobile radio service, in accordance with all applicable Federal Communication Commission orders, shall transmit all “911” calls from technologically compatible commercial mobile radio service communication devices without requiring user validation or any similar procedure. A provider of commercial mobile radio service may not charge any airtime, access, or similar usage charge for any “911” call placed from a commercial mobile radio service telecommunications device to a local emergency telephone system.*

(c) A “911” call from a commercial mobile radio service telecommunications device shall be routed to the Department of the California Highway Patrol only if the alternate routing meets all of the following requirements:

(1) The “911” call originates from a location other than from a highway or county road under the jurisdiction of the Department of the California Highway Patrol.

(2) The alternate routing is economically and technologically feasible.

(3) The alternate routing will benefit public safety and reduce burdens on dispatchers for the Department of the California Highway Patrol.

(4) The Department of the California Highway Patrol, the Department of General Services, and the proposed alternate public safety answering point determine that it is in the best interest of the public and will provide more effective emergency service to the public to route “911” calls that do not originate from a highway or county road under the jurisdiction of the Department of the California Highway Patrol to another public safety answering point.

the following:

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

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

~~(c) Access to local emergency telephone systems that use “911” as the emergency telephone number is important for wireless telecommunications users and for public safety in this state. In 1998, over 3 million “911” calls were received from wireless telecommunications devices by the Department of the California Highway~~

1 ~~Patrol, which, by statute, receives all cellular telephone~~  
2 ~~“911” calls.~~

3 ~~(d) The growth of wireless telecommunications use~~  
4 ~~has burdened dispatchers for the Department of the~~  
5 ~~California Highway Patrol and has led to delays in~~  
6 ~~answering and responding to calls.~~

7 ~~(e) Unlike “911” calls on land-based telephone lines,~~  
8 ~~“911” calls from wireless telecommunications devices do~~  
9 ~~not provide the telephone number or the location of the~~  
10 ~~caller to the dispatcher. Wireless telecommunications~~  
11 ~~service providers and public safety officials are working~~  
12 ~~on the complex task of implementing these~~  
13 ~~enhancements to the local emergency telephone systems~~  
14 ~~for wireless telecommunications.~~

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

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

22 ~~2892.1. (a) The California Wireless 911 Task Force is~~  
23 ~~hereby created, consisting of representatives of the~~  
24 ~~wireless telecommunications industry, the Department~~  
25 ~~of the California Highway Patrol, the Department of~~  
26 ~~General Services, operators of local public safety~~  
27 ~~answering points, and cities and counties.~~

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