AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 7, 1999

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 30, 1999

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 23, 1999

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 16, 1999

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 13, 1999

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 20, 1999

SENATE BILL No. 669

Introduced by Senator Polanco

February 24, 1999

An act to amend Section 53114.1 of the Government Code, and to add Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 270) to Part 1 of Division 1 of, the Public Utilities Code, relating to service.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 669, as amended, Polanco. Local emergency telephone systems: Public Utilities Commission.

(1) Existing law, the Warren-911-Emergency Assistance Act, directs the Communications Division of the Department of General Services to consult regularly with specified agencies, officials, and entities to accomplish its responsibilities with respect to the establishment by local agencies of 911 telephone service.

This bill would direct the Communications Division also to consult for that purpose with a local representative from a city and a local representative from a county.

(2) Existing law provides for various programs relating to telephone corporations to be administered by the Public Utilities Commission, and paid for in the utility rates authorized by the commission.

This bill would, under the Public Utilities Act, create 6 advisory boards to advise the commission regarding the implementation, development, and administration of specified programs, and to carry out the programs pursuant to the commission's direction, control, and approval. The bill would require the commission to determine the number and qualifications of the members of each advisory board, as specified, and would prescribe certain matters of organization and procedure for each advisory board. The bill would require each advisory board to submit an annual budget to the commission for approval, and a report describing the activities of the advisory board, as prescribed. The bill would create a fund in the State Treasury for each advisory board, and would require the commission, on or before July 1, 2000, to report to the Governor and the Legislature regarding a transition plan ~~designed to protect the efficiency and effectiveness of~~ *for* programs associated with those funds. The bill would limit the expenditure of moneys appropriated from the specified funds, as prescribed. The bill would require telephone corporations to submit to the commission approved rate revenues for transfer by the commission to the Controller for deposit in the appropriate fund as created by the bill. The bill would require any unexpended revenues collected prior to the operative date of the bill to be deposited in the appropriate fund, as specified. The bill would require the commission to conduct financial audits of the revenues for each of the funds, and to conduct compliance audits with regard to each program, as specified. Because, under the act, a violation of those provisions would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program by creating new crimes.

(3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

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

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

SECTION 1. Section 53114.1 of the Government Code is amended to read:

53114.1. To accomplish the responsibilities specified in this article, the Communications Division is directed to consult at regular intervals with the State Fire Marshal, the State Department of Health Services, the Governor's Office of Traffic Safety, the Office of Emergency Services, the California Council on Criminal Justice, a local representative from a city, a local representative from a county, the public utilities in this state providing telephone service, the Associated Public Safety Communications Officers, the Emergency Medical Services Authority, the Department of the California Highway Patrol, and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. These agencies shall provide all necessary assistance and consultation to the Communications Division to enable it to perform its duties specified in this article.

SEC. 2. Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 270) is added to Part 1 of Division 1 of the Public Utilities Code, to read:

Chapter 1.5. Advisory Boards

270. (a) The following funds are hereby created in the State Treasury:

(1) The California High-Cost Fund-A Administrative Committee Fund.

(2) The California High-Cost Fund-B Administrative Committee Fund.

(3) The Universal Lifeline Telephone Service Trust Administrative Committee Fund.

(4) The Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program Administrative Committee Fund.

(5) The Payphone Service Providers Committee Fund.

(6) The California Teleconnect Fund Administrative Committee Fund.

(b) Moneys in the funds may only be expended pursuant to this chapter and upon appropriation in the annual Budget Act.

(c) Moneys in each fund may not be appropriated, or in any other manner transferred or otherwise diverted, to any other fund or entity.

(d) Notwithstanding Section 7550.5 of the Government Code, on or before July 1, 2000, the Public Utilities Commission, in consultation with the Department of Finance, shall report to the Governor and the Legislature regarding a transition plan ~~designed to protect the efficiency and effectiveness of~~ *for* programs associated with funds to be established within the State Treasury, as specified in subdivision (a). *The transition plan report shall include information regarding the annual revenue to be deposited in, and the annual estimated expenditure for, each fund specified in subdivision (a).* Advisory committees created by Sections 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, and 280 shall provide information and input to the commission in development of the specified transition plan.

271. For each advisory board created pursuant to this chapter all of the following are applicable:

(a) The commission shall establish the number of, and qualifications for, persons to serve as members of each board, and shall appoint the members of each board. In determining the qualifications of persons who will serve as members of each board, the commission shall consider the purpose of the program, and shall attempt to achieve balanced public participation, for each board. The membership of each board shall reflect, to the extent possible, and consistent with existing law, the ethnic and gender diversity of the state.

(b) Each board shall determine, subject to approval by the commission, the time, location, and number of monthly meetings for each board.

(c) A majority of the number of members of each board constitutes a quorum.

(d) A board cannot act at a meeting without the presence of a quorum.

(e) The affirmative vote of a majority of those members present at the meeting of a board is necessary in order to pass any motion, resolution, or measure.

(f) The commission shall determine for each board whether the board members shall receive expense reimbursement pursuant to Section 19820 of the Government Code and a per diem allowance, as specified in Section 11564.5 of the Government Code, or as established by the commission. Each member of a board who is not a commission or public utility employee, or who is not otherwise compensated by an employer for service on the board, shall be entitled to make a claim for and to receive a per diem allowance, if authorized by the commission. Each member of a board who is not a public utility employee, or who is not otherwise reimbursed by an employer for expenses incurred when serving on the board, shall be entitled to make a claim for and to receive expense reimbursement, if authorized by the commission. The commission shall allow all reasonable expense and per diem claims. The payments in each instance shall be made only from the fund that supports the activities of the board and shall be subject to the availability of money in that fund. The claims shall be filed by the board with the commission.

273. Each advisory board created pursuant to this chapter shall do both of the following:

(a) Submit an annual budget to the commission. Within 90 calendar days after receiving a board's annual budget, the commission shall either accept, accept with conditions, or reject the submitted budget.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 7550.5 of the Government Code, submit, in accordance with procedures established by the commission, a report that shall describe the activities of the board during the prior reporting period. The report shall be submitted on an annual or more frequent basis, as ordered by the commission.

274. The commission may on its own order, whenever it determines it to be necessary, conduct financial audits of the revenues required to be collected and submitted to the commission for each of the funds specified in Section 270. The commission may on its own order, whenever it determines it to be necessary, conduct compliance audits on the compliance with commission orders with regard to each program subject to this chapter. The commission shall conduct a financial and compliance audit of program-related costs and activities at least once every three years. The first three-year period for a financial and compliance audit commences on January 1, 2000. The second and subsequent three-year periods for financial audits commence three years after the completion of the prior financial audit. The second and subsequent three-year periods for compliance audits commence three years after the completion of the prior compliance audit. The commission may contract with the Bureau of State Audits or the Department of Finance for all necessary auditing services. All costs for audits shall be paid from the fund that supports the activities of the board audited and shall be subject to the availability of money in that fund.

275. (a) There is hereby created the California High-Cost Fund-A Administrative Committee, which is an advisory board to advise the commission regarding the development, implementation, and administration of a program to provide for transfer payments to small independent telephone corporations providing local exchange services in high-cost rural and small metropolitan areas in the state to create fair and equitable local rate structures, as provided for in Section 739.3, and to carry out the program pursuant to the commission's direction, control, and approval.

(b) All revenues collected by telephone corporations in rates authorized by the commission to fund the program specified in subdivision (a) shall be submitted to the commission pursuant to a schedule established by the commission. The commission shall transfer the moneys received to the Controller for deposit in the California High-Cost Fund-A Administrative Committee Fund. All interest earned by moneys in the fund shall be deposited in the fund. Any unexpended revenues collected prior to the operative date of this section shall be submitted to the commission, and the commission shall transfer those moneys to the Controller for deposit in the California High-Cost Fund-A Administrative Committee Fund.

(c) Moneys appropriated from the California High-Cost Fund-A Administrative Committee Fund to the commission shall be utilized exclusively by the commission for the program specified in subdivision (a), including all costs of the board and the commission associated with the administration and oversight of the program and the fund.

276. (a) There is hereby created the California High-Cost Fund-B Administrative Committee, which is an advisory board to advise the commission regarding the development, implementation, and administration of a program to provide for transfer payments to telephone corporations providing local exchange services in high-cost areas in the state to create fair and equitable local rate structures, as provided for in Section 739.3, and to carry out the program pursuant to the commission's direction, control, and approval.

(b) All revenues collected by telephone corporations in rates authorized by the commission to fund the program specified in subdivision (a) shall be submitted to the commission pursuant to a schedule established by the commission. The commission shall transfer the moneys received to the Controller for deposit in the California High-Cost Fund-B Administrative Committee Fund. All interest earned by moneys in the fund shall be deposited in the fund. Any unexpended revenues collected prior to the operative date of this section shall be submitted to the commission, and the commission shall transfer those moneys to the Controller for deposit in the California High-Cost Fund-B Administrative Committee Fund.

(c) Moneys appropriated from the California High-Cost Fund-B Administrative Committee Fund to the commission shall be utilized exclusively by the commission for the program specified in subdivision (a), including all costs of the board and the commission associated with the administration and oversight of the program and the fund.

277. (a) There is hereby created the Universal Lifeline Telephone Service Trust Administrative Committee, which is an advisory board to advise the commission regarding the development, implementation, and administration of a program to ensure lifeline telephone service is available to the people of the state, as provided for in Article 8 (commencing with Section 871) of Chapter 4 of Part 1 of Division 1, and to carry out the program pursuant to the commission's direction, control, and approval.

(b) All revenues collected by telephone corporations in rates authorized by the commission to fund the program specified in subdivision (a) shall be submitted to the commission pursuant to a schedule established by the commission. The commission shall transfer the moneys received to the Controller for deposit in the Universal Lifeline Telephone Service Trust Administrative Committee Fund. All interest earned by moneys in the fund shall be deposited in the fund. Any unexpended revenues collected prior to the operative date of this section shall be submitted to the commission, and the commission shall transfer those moneys to the Controller for deposit in the Universal Lifeline Telephone Service Trust Administrative Committee Fund.

(c) Moneys appropriated from the Universal Lifeline Telephone Service Trust Administrative Committee Fund to the commission shall be utilized exclusively by the commission for the program specified in subdivision (a), including all costs of the board and the commission associated with the administration and oversight of the program and the fund.

278. (a) (1) There is hereby created the Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program Administrative Committee, which is an advisory board to advise the commission regarding the development, implementation, and administration of programs to provide specified telecommunications services and equipment to persons in this state who are deaf or disabled, as provided for in Sections 2881, 2881.1, and 2881.2, and to carry out the programs pursuant to the commission's direction, control, and approval.

(2) In addition to the membership qualifications established by the commission pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 271, the commission shall establish qualifications for persons to serve as members of the Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program Administrative Committee to achieve appropriate representation by the consumers of telecommunications services for the deaf and disabled.

(b) All revenues collected by telephone corporations in rates authorized by the commission to fund the programs specified in subdivision (a) shall be submitted to the commission pursuant to a schedule established by the commission. The commission shall transfer the moneys received to the Controller for deposit in the Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program Administrative Committee Fund. All interest earned by moneys in the fund shall be deposited in the fund. Any unexpended revenues collected prior to the operative date of this section shall be submitted to the commission, and the commission shall transfer those moneys to the Controller for deposit in the Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program Administrative Committee Fund. In addition, those revenues that are collected pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 2881 shall be accounted for separately, as required by subdivision (b) of Section 2881.2, and deposited in the fund created by the commission pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 2881.2.

(c) Moneys appropriated from the Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program Administrative

Committee Fund to the commission shall be utilized exclusively by the commission for the program specified in subdivision (a), including all costs of the board and the commission associated with the administration and oversight of the program and the fund.

279. (a) There is hereby created the Payphone Service Providers Committee, which is an advisory board to advise the commission regarding the development, implementation, and administration of programs to educate payphone service providers, ensure compliance with the commission's requirements for payphone operations, and educate consumers on matters related to payphones, as provided for in commission Decision 90-06-018, and to provide for the placement of telecommunications devices capable of servicing the needs of the deaf or the hearing impaired in existing buildings and public accommodations, as specified in subdivision (a) of Section 2881.2.

(b) All revenues collected by telephone corporations in rates authorized by the commission to fund the programs specified in subdivision (a) shall be submitted to the commission pursuant to a schedule established by the commission. The commission shall transfer the moneys received to the Controller for deposit in the Payphone Service Providers Committee Fund. All interest earned by moneys in the fund shall be deposited in the fund. Any unexpended revenues collected prior to the operative date of this section shall be submitted to the commission, and the commission shall transfer those moneys to the Controller for deposit in the Payphone Service Providers Committee Fund.

(c) Moneys appropriated from the Payphone Service Providers Committee Fund to the commission shall be utilized exclusively by the commission for the program specified in subdivision (a), including all costs of the board and the commission associated with the administration and oversight of the program and the fund.

280. (a) There is hereby created the California Teleconnect Fund Administrative Committee, which is

an advisory board to advise the commission regarding the development, implementation, and administration of a program to advance universal service by providing discounted rates to qualifying schools, libraries, hospitals, health clinics, and community organizations, consistent with Chapter 278 of the Statutes of 1994, and to carry out the program pursuant to the commission's direction, control, and approval.

(b) All revenues collected by telephone corporations in rates authorized by the commission to fund the program specified in subdivision (a) shall be submitted to the commission pursuant to a schedule established by the commission. The commission shall transfer the moneys received to the Controller for deposit in the California Teleconnect Fund Administrative Committee Fund. All interest earned by moneys in the fund shall be deposited in the fund. Any unexpended revenues collected prior to the operative date of this section shall be submitted to the commission, and the commission shall transfer those moneys to the Controller for deposit in the California Teleconnect Fund Administrative Committee Fund.

(c) Moneys appropriated from the California Teleconnect Fund Administrative Committee Fund to the commission shall be utilized exclusively by the commission for the program specified in subdivision (a), including all costs of the board and the commission associated with the administration and oversight of the program and the fund.

281. Any revenues that are deposited in funds created pursuant to this chapter shall not be used by the state for any purpose other than as specified in this chapter.

SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

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