

Introduced by Senator Bowen

February 23, 2000

An act to add Section 7943 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to telecommunications.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1741, as introduced, Bowen. Telecommunications: technology specific area codes.

Under federal law, the Federal Communications Commission has delegated authority to the Public Utilities Commission to regulate area codes within the state subject to specific guidelines. One of those guidelines is that the state cannot approve an area code based on specific technology.

This bill would require the Public Utilities Commission to request authority from the Federal Communications Commission to require telephone corporations to establish technology specific area codes based on wireless and data communications. This bill would also prohibit the Public Utilities Commission from approving new area code splits or overlays unless a technology specific area code had been established in the affected area and further area code relief is warranted.

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. Section 7943 is added to the Public
2 Utilities Code, to read:

1 7943. (a) On or before March 31, 2001, the
2 commission shall request that the Federal
3 Communications Commission grant authority for the
4 commission to order telephone corporations to assign
5 telephone numbers dedicated to wireless and data usage
6 to a separate area code.

7 (b) If the commission receives the grant of authority
8 set forth in subdivision (a), the commission may not
9 approve an area code split or an area code overlay unless
10 both of the following occur:

11 (1) The commission has previously ordered that
12 telephone numbers dedicated to wireless and data usage
13 in the proposed area code split or overlay be assigned to
14 a separate area code.

15 (2) Further area code relief is warranted.

