

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 31, 2000
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 25, 2000
AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 30, 2000

SENATE BILL

No. 1741

**Introduced by Senator Bowen
(Coauthor: Senator O'Connell)**

February 23, 2000

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1741, as amended, 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. The guidelines prohibit an area code based on specific technology and require 10 digit dialing for all telephone calls within and between all area codes covered by an area code overlay.

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 and to permit 7 digit dialing within the affected area codes. ~~This~~ *The bill would require the Public Utilities Commission to use any authority so granted unless it makes a specified finding. The bill would also prohibit the*

Public Utilities Commission from approving new area code splits or overlays unless a telephone utilization study has been performed and all reasonable telephone number conservation has been implemented, a technology specific area code had been established in the affected area, if authorized, and further area code relief is warranted. The bill would also prohibit the commission from implementing any authority granted by the Federal Communications Commission in a manner that impairs number portability.

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:

3 7943. (a) *It is the intent of the Legislature that when*
4 *the commission has no reasonable alternative other than*
5 *to create a new area code, that the commission do so in*
6 *a way that creates the least inconvenience for customers.*

7 (b) On or before March 31, 2001, the commission shall
8 request that the Federal Communications Commission
9 grant authority for the commission to order telephone
10 corporations to assign telephone numbers dedicated to
11 wireless and data usage to a separate area code and to
12 permit seven digit dialing within the affected area codes.

13 ~~(b)~~

14 (c) Before approving any new area code, the
15 commission shall first perform a telephone utilization
16 study and implement all reasonable telephone number
17 conservation measures.

18 ~~(e) If the commission receives the grant of authority~~
19 ~~set forth in subdivision (a), the commission may not~~
20 ~~approve an area code split or an area code overlay unless~~
21 ~~it has complied with subdivision (b) and both of the~~
22 ~~following occur:~~

23 ~~(1) The commission has utilized the authority granted~~
24 ~~by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to~~
25 ~~subdivision (a).~~

26 ~~(2) Further area code relief is warranted.~~

1 (d) If the commission receives the grant of authority
2 set forth in subdivision (a) and determines that further
3 area code relief is needed, the commission shall exercise
4 the authority granted to it in subdivision (a) unless it finds
5 at least one of the following:

6 (1) Exercising the authority granted by subdivision
7 (a) would be more disruptive to the customers where
8 area code relief has been determined to be necessary.

9 (2) Exercising the authority granted by subdivision
10 (a) will not adequately extend the life of the area code
11 where relief has been determined to be necessary.

12 (d) The commission may not implement any authority
13 granted by the Federal Communications Commission
14 pursuant to subdivision (a), in a manner that impairs the
15 ability of a customer to have number portability.

