

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 24, 2000

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1774**

**Introduced by Senator Bowen**

February 23, 2000

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~~An act to amend Section 348 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to public utilities. An act to add Section 10910.2, to the Education Code, relating to computer access, and making an appropriation therefor.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1774, as amended, Bowen. ~~Public utilities: electrical restructuring~~ Computer access.

Existing law authorizes school districts to organize, promote, and conduct programs of community recreation as well as contribute to the attainment of general educational and recreational objectives for children and adults of the state. Existing law declares that it is in the interest of the people and of the state that there be a general diffusion of knowledge and intelligence through the establishment and operation of public libraries.

This bill would require the State Department of Education to establish a grant program to encourage schools to keep their computer facilities open and available to the public on evenings and weekends and to encourage public libraries that have Internet access to extend the hours and days during which access is available to the public. The bill would provide grant funds to cover the additional costs incurred by the schools and libraries, as well as provide for the cost of technical assistance at a level determined by the State Department of

*Education. The bill would require a school to implement a program that enlists pupil volunteers to provide technical support as a condition to receiving the grant.*

*The bill would appropriate an unspecified sum from the General Fund to the State Department of Education, according to a specified schedule, to fund the grant programs.*

~~The Public Utilities Act requires the Independent System Operator to adopt inspection, maintenance, repair, and replacement standards, on or before September 30, 1997, for the transmission facilities under its control, and standards for reliability and safety during periods of emergency and disaster. Existing law requires the Independent System Operator to report to the Oversight Board, at those times specified by the Oversight Board, on the development and implementation of the standards in relation to facilities under the operational control of the Independent System Operator.~~

~~This bill would require the Independent System Operator to report quarterly to the Oversight Board.~~

Vote: ~~majority~~ <sup>2/3</sup>. Appropriation: ~~no~~—yes. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~ yes. State-mandated local program: no.

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

1 ~~SECTION 1. Section 348 of the Public Utilities Code~~

2 *SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of*  
3 *the following:*

4 *(a) The ability to use a computer and the Internet are*  
5 *becoming critical skills that are necessary for full*  
6 *participation in modern society.*

7 *(b) The disparate access to computers and the*  
8 *Internet is known as the “digital divide” and is related to*  
9 *an individual’s income, ethnicity, and geographic*  
10 *location. The digital divide disadvantages people by*  
11 *denying them an equal opportunity to educate*  
12 *themselves, avail themselves of economic opportunities,*  
13 *participate in electronic commerce, and access*  
14 *information.*

15 *(c) A cost-effective way of helping to bridge the digital*  
16 *divide is to provide educational and training*  
17 *opportunities to pupils as well as provide general access*

1 to the public through the extended use of schools,  
2 libraries, and other public access computer centers.

3 SEC. 2. Section 10910.2 is added to the Education  
4 Code, to read:

5 10910.2. The State Department of Education shall  
6 establish a grant program to encourage schools to keep  
7 their computer facilities open and available to the public  
8 on evenings and weekends, and to encourage public  
9 libraries that have Internet access to extend the hours and  
10 days during which access is available to the public. The  
11 grants shall cover the additional costs incurred by a school  
12 or library as well as provide for the cost of technical  
13 assistance at a level determined by the State Department  
14 of Education. As a condition to receiving a grant, a school  
15 must implement a program that enlists pupil volunteers  
16 to provide technical support.

17 SEC. 3. The sum of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$\_\_\_\_\_) is hereby  
18 appropriated from the General Fund to the State  
19 Department of Education to be allocated according to  
20 the following schedule:

21 (a) The sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars (\$\_\_\_\_\_) to  
22 encourage schools to keep their computer facilities open  
23 and available to the public on evenings and weekends by  
24 providing grant funds to cover the additional costs  
25 incurred by a school as well as provide for the cost of  
26 technical assistance at a level determined by the State  
27 Department of Education.

28 (b) The sum of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$\_\_\_\_\_) to encourage  
29 public libraries that have Internet access to extend the  
30 hours and days during which access is available to the  
31 public by providing grant funding to cover additional  
32 costs incurred by the library as well as provide for the cost  
33 of technical assistance at a level determined by the State  
34 Department of Education. ~~is amended to read:~~

35 ~~348. The Independent System Operator shall adopt~~  
36 ~~inspection, maintenance, repair, and replacement~~  
37 ~~standards for the transmission facilities under its control~~  
38 ~~no later than September 30, 1997. The standards, which~~  
39 ~~shall be performance or prescriptive standards, or both,~~  
40 ~~as appropriate, for each substantial type of transmission~~

1 ~~equipment or facility, shall provide for high quality, safe,~~  
2 ~~and reliable service. In adopting its standards, the~~  
3 ~~Independent System Operator shall consider all of the~~  
4 ~~following: cost, local geography and weather, applicable~~  
5 ~~codes, national electric industry practices, sound~~  
6 ~~engineering judgment, and experience. The~~  
7 ~~Independent System Operator shall also adopt standards~~  
8 ~~for reliability, and safety during periods of emergency~~  
9 ~~and disaster. The Independent System Operator shall~~  
10 ~~report quarterly to the Oversight Board on the~~  
11 ~~development and implementation of the standards in~~  
12 ~~relation to facilities under the operational control of the~~  
13 ~~Independent System Operator. The Independent System~~  
14 ~~Operator shall require each transmission facility owner or~~  
15 ~~operator to report annually on its compliance with the~~  
16 ~~standards. That report shall be made available to the~~  
17 ~~public.~~