

2004

2003-2004 Legislative Summary

Assembly Committee on Utilities and Commerce

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ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES AND COMMERCE

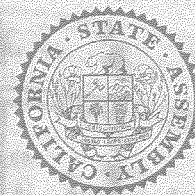
2003–2004

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

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2003-04

Assembly
California Legislature



Committee on Utilities and Commerce
SARAH REYES, Chair

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November 15, 2004

To All Interested Parties:

The following summary of legislation lists all of the bills that came before the Committee on Utilities & Commerce during the 2003-2004 Session of the Legislature. Each is organized in numerical order and indicates the final result for each bill. Please keep in mind that the summaries are not intended to be a definitive, comprehensive statement of the provisions of the bill. Rather, it is intended to provide general information to the reader. For more detailed information concerning any bill, please go the legislative information website at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov> and click on "bill information."

It was an honor to serve as chairwoman of the Utilities and Commerce Committee. I wish my colleagues who will have the pleasure of serving on this committee all the best in the next session.

For additional information regarding this summary or other activities of the committee, please contact the committee staff at 916-319-2083.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Reyes".

Sarah Reyes
Chairwoman

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MAY 25 2005

GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY

Utilities & Commerce 2003-2004 Legislative Summary

ASSEMBLY BILLS

AB 84 (Cogdill)

Requires the Public Utilities Commission to contract with an independent auditor to audit the expenditure of funds collected from common carriers and related businesses. This bill was amended in the Senate becoming a (Levine) bill and prohibiting felons from being on the ballot as candidates for Presidency.

Last Action: Held in Senate Elections and Reapportionment Committee.

AB 151 (Vargas)

Air pollution: importation of electrical energy: mitigation fee. Requires any person importing electrical energy into the state to pay an air contaminant emission mitigation fee if the source of the electricity is located in Mexico, within 100 kilometers of the US, was not constructed using the best available control technology for air contaminants and shares an air basin with an air pollution control or air quality management district. Authorizes the State Air Resources Board, beginning January 1, 2006, to reduce that fee to a lower amount, upon making a determination that the lower fee would further enhance reductions of emissions of air contaminants.

Last Action: Held in Senate Elections and Reapportionment Committee.

AB 425 (Richman)

Extension of the interruptible service option and inclusion of penalties for non compliance. This bill was amended in the Senate becoming a (Campbell) bill relating to public trust lands.

Last Action: Chapter 361, Statutes of 2004.

AB 426 (Cox)

Local publicly owned electric utilities: cost responsibility surcharge. Prohibits the Public Utilities Commission from imposing any charge, including a cost responsibility surcharge on a customer municipal electric utility (muni) if the customer's service location has not previously received service from an investor owned utility.

Last Action: Moved to Assembly Inactive File.

AB 428 (Richman)

Reinstates direct access and phases in rules for implementation by the Public Utilities Commission. Requires the Public Utilities Commission to permit direct access equivalent to load growth and reduction in Department of Water Resources contract obligations from 2006-2009. Requires the Public Utilities Commission, by April 1, 2005, to establish a core/non-core direct access model, to commence January 1, 2009, consistent with specified principles. Requires the Independent System Operator to enforce resource adequacy requirements. Requires the Public Utilities Commission, by April 1, 2005, to report on its direct access rules. Prohibits the Public Utilities Commission from adopting an investor owned utility procurement plan unless it complies with the Public Utilities Commission's schedule for phased implementation of direct access. Requires the Public Utilities Commission to establish transition rules that allow an investor owned utility to avoid stranding capacity through its procurement plan.

Last Action: Held in Senate E., U., & C.

AB 489 (Oropeza)

Created differential incentives for renewable and super clean distributed generation including requiring an interconnection agreement between fuel cell or microturbine generators who operate solely on wasted gas.

Last Action: Held in Assembly U&C.

AB 508 (McCarthy)

Excludes commercial mobile radio service from the definition of "telephone corporation" in the public utilities code.

Last Action: Held in Assembly U&C.

AB 583 (Leslie)

Exempts from Public Utilities Commission regulation the disposition of a generation facility that is located out of state, owned by a utility that serves 60,000 or fewer customers in the state, and is not needed to serve the public utility customers in the state.

Last Action: Chapter 108, Statutes of 2003.

AB 594 (Leno)

Establishes a net metering program between the City and County of San Francisco through Hetch Hetchy Water and Power photovoltaic generation facilities and Pacific Gas and Electric.

Last Action: Chapter 790, Statutes of 2004.

AB 808 (Canciamilla)

Energy: agency consolidation. Creates a cabinet-level Energy Agency with the responsibility for planning, development, and implementation of all major aspects of the state energy policy. The Agency, with a Secretary appointed by the Governor, shall be outlined in a reorganization plan submitted for study and recommendation to the "Little Hoover" Commission by May 1, 2004 and to the Legislature by July 1, 2004. The Energy Agency will consist of at a minimum, a merged California Consumer Power and Conservation Financing Authority, State Energy Resources Conversation and Development Commission (California Energy Commission) as well as all energy policy making functions and energy conservation programs and oversight currently performed by the Public Utilities Commission.

Last Action: Held in Senate E., U., & C.

AB 816 (Reyes)

Reinstates direct access to customers with loads of 500 kilowatts or more subject to specified requirements in this bill. Requires the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules to implement the reinstatement of direct access, including notice requirements imposed as a condition of direct access, and provisions to ensure the prompt recovery by an investor owned utility of costs incurred to reinstate and administer direct access.

Last Action: Held in Senate E., U., & C.

AB 855 (Firebaugh)

Telecommunications: access to state property for wireless facilities: California Teleconnect Fund Administrative Committee Fund: Digital Divide Account. Requires that 15 percent of the revenues derived from new leases of state-owned property to wireless telecommunications providers be redirected from the General Fund to a separate account, administered by the Public Utilities Commission for the purpose of funding a "Digital Divide" grant program.

Last Action: Chapter 820, Statutes of 2003.

AB 860 (Bates)

Exempts entities from being defined in the Public Utilities code as electrical corporations that own undivided interest in an electrical generating facility, sell the electricity in over the fence transactions, and sell electricity for the purpose of operating a seawater desalination plant producing water for sale to the electrical generating facility and to a wholesale water corporation.

Last Action: Held in Assembly U&C.

AB 909 (Reyes)

Requires telephone companies to provide to customers purchasing a service that includes both local and long distance, or for customers that buy a set number of minutes for a fixed price, a breakdown separately showing the total minutes of use in the billing period listed under one telephone number for toll and long distance service. This information shall be provided by the telephone company only at the request of a customer. Includes a sunset of January 1, 2007.

Last Action: Chapter 565, Statutes of 2003.

AB 914 (Reyes)

Makes clarifying changes to existing law pertaining to the 911 system and requires the development of a client server system to access geo-reference maps.

Last Action: Amended in the Senate to create a dedicated rate component to support an energy recovery bond for Pacific Gas & Electric. Held in Senate.

AB 1121 (Canciamilla)

Requires the Public Utilities Commission to report to the Legislature funds collected from each utility class regulated by the Public Utilities Commission. The report shall include regulatory and Public Utilities Commission approved expenditures to carry out the Public Utilities Commission's duties for each utility class.

Last Action: Held in Assembly U&C.

AB 1157 (Canciamilla)

Public utilities: water and gas rates. Provides that existing law governing the time frames within which water rate case decisions must be issued applies to rate cases that were pending before the Public Utilities Commission prior to changes in the timeframes in 2002.

Last Action: Held in Senate E., U., & C.

AB 1169 (Bermudez)

Allows municipal entities involved in the Magnolia Power Plant project to provide electric power to local public agencies located within or contiguous to a project city's jurisdiction.

Last Action: Amended in Senate to allow telephone corporations to remove property from their ratebase. Held in Senate E., U., & C.

AB 1203 (Haynes)

Requires Department of Water and Power in the State Resources Agency to sell or liquidate all power contracts.

Last Action: Held in Assembly U&C.

AB 1214 (Firebaugh)

Net energy metering: fuel cell customer-generators.

Requires electrical corporations to provide net energy metering to fuel cell customer generators.

Last Action: Chapter 661, Statutes of 2003.

AB 1237 (Salinas)

Electrical corporations: nonprofit organization energy efficiency improvement program.

Requires energy efficiency programs operated by the state's investor owned utilities to include a program for energy efficiency improvements at facilities owned and operated by nonprofit organizations.

Last Action: Held on Assembly Suspense File.

AB 1284 (Leslie)

Direct transactions: cost responsibility surcharges. Authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to defer or waive a portion of the cost responsibility surcharge for a limited number of qualifying direct transaction customers.

Last Action: Chapter 239, Statutes of 2003.

AB 1291 (Campbell)

Baseline rates: electric pumps. Requires the Public Utilities Commission to establish a baseline quantity and electricity rate people who live in homes that were designed to be all-electric.

Last Action: Held in Assembly U&C.

AB 1292 (Campbell)

Deletes the requirements that specified Public Utilities Commission public purpose programs be contingent upon appropriation in the annual state budget and that the programs be continuously appropriated.

Last Action: Held in Assembly U&C.

AB 1317 (Parra)

Environmental protection. Removes the sunset on the Agricultural Biomass-to-Energy Incentive Grant Program (grant program) and adds a new sunset of January 1, 2009.

Last Action: Held in Senate Committee on Environmental Quality.

AB 1329 (Levine)

Codifies six principles of consumer rights for telecommunication services.

Last Action: Amended in Senate to regulate gasoline corporations. Held in Senate E., U., & C.

AB 1379 (Calderon)

Requires roaming usage and minutes to be provided to consumers where feasible.

Last Action: Chapter 333, Statutes of 2003.

AB 1389 (Ridley-Thomas)

Public Utilities Commission: reports: hiring: capital investment.

Requires the Public Utilities Commission to provide an annual report to the policy committees of the Senate and Assembly, and to make the report publicly available through the Internet. The report will contain the following information from a public utility with over 750 employees. The number of California residents employed as independent contractors and consultants by the public utility (applies only to those employees personally providing services to the utility and only when the utility has obtained the information upon requesting it and is not contractually prohibited from disclosing such information.)

Last Action: Chapter 446, Statutes of 2003.

AB 1452 (Hancock)

Telecommunications: predictive dialers.

Last Action: Held in Assembly U&C.

AB 1457 (Budget)

Appropriates \$2.5 million from the California High-Cost Fund-A Administrative Committee Fund (High-Cost A) to the Public Utilities Commission, in order to pay subsidies to small independent telephone companies serving high-cost rural areas for 2001-02. Amended to address vehicle license fees.

Last Action: Chapter 37, Statutes of 2004.

AB 1684 (Leno)

Requires the Public Utilities Commission in consultation with the Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to administer a self-generation incentive program for all combustion operated fossil fuel distributed generation projects as specified.

Last Action: Chapter 675, Statutes of 2004.

AB 1685 (Leno)

Extends the Self-Generation Incentive Program until January 1, 2008, and requires that combustion-operated distributed generation projects meet specific emissions targets in order to qualify for rebates.

Last Action: Chapter 894, Statutes of 2003.

AB 1730 (U&C Committee)

Require the Public Utilities Commission to submit a report to the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee and the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee, or their successors, by March 31, 2004, on the status of balances, transfers, and reimbursement requests for the California High-Cost Fund-A Administrative Committee Fund and the High-Cost Fund-B Administrative Committee Fund.

Last Action: Held in Assembly U&C.

AB 1733 (Reyes)

Telecommunications: selling or licensing lists of subscribers. Requires cell phone companies to obtain written consent of a subscriber before a subscriber's number can be shared with marketers or the public. Cell phone companies want to create a nationwide 411 type director of cell phone numbers. This bill will allow people who may want their numbers shared to benefit from a public directory, but will protect consumers who want a higher level of privacy and control over their bill.

Last Action: Chapter 753, Statutes of 2004.

AB 1734 (U&C Committee)

Public utilities: energy efficiency budgets. Allows public utilities to submit multi-year energy efficiency program budgets to the Public Utilities Commission, and requires the Public Utilities Commissions approval of the program budgets within six months after submittal. Requires the Public Utilities Commission to exercise regulatory oversight over, rather than administer energy efficiency programs and instead places administration of the programs with the investor-owned utilities.

Last Action: Held on Assembly Appropriations Suspense File.

AB 1735 (U&C Committee)

Public Utilities Commission: rate-setting and quasi-legislative cases. Requires the Public Utilities Commission to resolve all ratesetting and quasi-legislative cases within 18 months of the date of filing, as specified.

Last Action: Chapter 452, Statutes of 2003.

AB 1833 (Reyes)

Telecommunications: commercial mobile radio service handsets. Requires that every cell phone sold after January 1, 2008 that is equipped to take or transmit photographic images emit a distinctive noise or light to indicate when a photographic image is recorded.

Last Action: Held in Assembly U&C.

AB 1874 (Cohn)

Telecommunications: Information and Advanced Communications Deployment Act of 2004. Makes it quicker and easier for telecommunications companies install the infrastructure needed for high speed telecommunication, by making it easier for these companies to receive permits from Caltrans to install cables along state rights of way.

Last Action: Vetoed.

AB 1889 (Chu)

Deletes obsolete code sections in the California Public Utilities Code that pertain to the bankrupted Power Exchange (PX).

Last Action: Held on Senate floor.

AB 1981 (Wolk)

Requires telephone subscribers, certified as disabled, to have the option of receiving a mobile phone, with features for the disabled, in lieu of receiving other specialized or supplemental telephone equipment. Prohibits the Public Utilities Commission from increasing the existing telephone surcharge for deaf and disabled telecommunications equipment and services in order to implement the program.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Appropriations.

AB 2006 (Nunez)

Enacts the Reliable Electric Service Act of 2004 and specifies cost recovery and obligation to serve provisions for investor owned utilities, long term procurement planning requirements, resource adequacy requirements, and the Public Utilities Commission process reform requirements.

Last Action: Vetoed.

AB 2135 (Levine)

Establishes an inventory of city or county owned real property available for lease by a wireless carrier.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Appropriations.

AB 2172 (Levine)

Telecommunications: lease of state property for wireless facilities: Digital Opportunities Account in the California Teleconnect Fund Administrative Committee Fund. Requires that all lease revenues generated from the use of wireless telecommunication facilities on state owned land that was purchased with funds from a continuously appropriated special fund will be deposited into that special fund.

Last Action: Held in Senate Appropriations.

AB 2197 (Aghazarian)

Dam and reservoir regulation. Expresses the intent of the Legislature that the Secretary of the Resources Agency should consult with specified interested parties to help the Secretary determine whether the Department of Water Resources should continue to inspect dams that are licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Last Action: Vetoed.

AB 2283 (Chu)

"211" telephone number system. Promotes the statewide implementation of a "211" phone number that will provide callers with non-emergency information and referrals to social services. Specifically, this bill names the Department of Health and Human Services Agency as the lead agency to oversee any distribution of federal money that is appropriated to this program and to coordinate the efforts of local agencies that are developing "211" programs.

Last Action: Vetoed.

AB 2303 (Leno)

Public utilities: corporate taxation: insolvency. Requires that any expense resulting from a bonus paid to an executive officer of a public utility that has ceased to pay its debts in the ordinary course of business shall be borne by the shareholders of that utility rather than being recovered through rates.

Last Action: Chapter 759, Statutes of 2004.

AB 2304 (Richman)

Energy resources. Repeals requirements that the California Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission provides several obsolete or redundant reports to the Legislature.

Last Action: Chapter 781, Statutes of 2004.

AB 2432 (Oropeza)

Public utilities: equipment, practices, and facilities: electrical corporations and local publicly owned electric utilities. Requires electrical corporation, to provide a status

report, to any customer that is without electricity as a result of an outage or blackout. Beginning with hour 26 after the beginning of the outage or blackout, excluding an outage or blackout that occurs as a result of or in conjunction with, a declared state of emergency or local emergency, as defined.

Last Action: Held in Assembly U&C.

AB 2447 (Diaz)

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to post the following information on its Internet web site its annual work plan and any listing or reports the Public Utilities Commission is annually required to file with the Legislature, which must remain on the website for five years, except one-time reports, which must remain for 10 years.

Last Action: Held in Senate E., U., & C.

AB 2499 (Jerome Horton)

New publicly owned electric utilities: resource plans. Requires publicly owned electric utilities established after January 1, 2001, to meet the same resource adequacy requirements of investor owned utilities before they can provide electric services.

Last Action: Failed passage on Senate Floor.

AB 2505 (Maldonado)

Exempts most large telephone corporations from the prior approval requirement for the issuance of stock or debt, but allows the Public Utilities Commission to again impose the requirement if it finds doing so is in the public interest.

Last Action: Held in Senate E., U., & C.

AB 2509 (Nakanishi)

Electric microutilities. States legislative intent that the Public Utilities Commission consider the costs imposed on a microutility in participating in a Public Utilities Commission proceeding before naming the microutility as a respondent in a hearing generally applicable to electrical corporations.

Last Action: Chapter 639, Statutes of 2004.

AB 2577 (La Suer)

Telecommunications. Allows telephone and telegraph companies to share with third parties information about a subscriber's calling patterns, credit information, or service history under specified situations without obtaining a customers written consent.

Last Action: Failed Passage in Assembly U&C.

AB 2589 (Calderon)

Authorizes the use of electronic filing by the Public Utilities Commission at the option of the utility for forms and documents deemed not to be confidential.

Last Action: Held in Assembly U&C.

AB 2593 (Calderon)

Specifies that the Public Utilities Commission has the option to suspend for a year the collection of the surcharge for the Self-Generation Incentive Program when it determines it has sufficient funds to meet current year demand for incentives.

Last Action: Vetoed.

AB 2642 (Canciamilla)

Permit Streamlining Act: natural gas. Creates an expedited 120-day permitting process for in-state natural gas wells.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Natural Resources.

AB 2643 (Canciamilla)

Energy: natural gas. Requires the California Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to prepare, as a component of the 2005 Integrated Energy Policy Report, an assessment of the costs and benefits of siting liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities within the state.

Last Action: Held in Senate E.,U. & C.

AB 2652 (Bates)

Requires the California Energy Commission to establish a process for expedited review for the certification of application to repower a thermal powerplant or related facility.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Natural Resources.

AB 2758 (Berg)

Extends the sunset date to 2009 for the Rural Telecommunication Infrastructure Grant Program, AB 140 (Strom-Martin), Chapter 903, Statutes of 2001, administered by the Public Utilities Commission funded out of an existing surcharge on telephone services, to extend telecommunications services to specified low income communities.

Last Action: Chapter 767, Statutes of 2004.

AB 2767 (Richman)

Clarifies existing law to authorize the Department of Water Resources to re-negotiate contractual agreements pertaining to electricity purchase contracts.

Last Action: Held in Senate E., U., & C.

AB 2768 (Richman)

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to take specific actions regarding regulation of the communications industry. Specifically this bill prohibits the regulation of information services such as Internet telephony and requires the Public Utilities Commission to review and streamline rules and regulations governing the telecommunications industry.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Appropriations.

AB 2799 (Calderon)

Requires only the essential terms of an agreement be adequately disclosed in written solicitations mailed to customers. Also establishes payment obligations for customers as a result of contractual obligations for a product or service.

Last Action: Held in Senate E., U., & C.

AB 2803 (Jerome Horton)

Public Utilities Commission: hearings: record on economic impacts. Requires that in specific Public Utility Commission cases, the Public Utilities Commission must indicate whether there is a need to consider the economic impact of the issues presented in the case. A consideration of economic impact shall include the effect on employment, capital investment, infrastructure deployment, public safety, or any other element determined to be of economic significance.

Last Action: Held in Senate E., U. & C.

AB 2869 (Levine)

Exempts customers of a utility from paying specified charges established by either the board of the local publicly owned electric utility or the Public Utilities Commission.

Last Action: Chapter 646, Statutes of 2004.

AB 2918 (Laird)

Direct the Public Utilities Commission to evaluate the interrelationship between its electricity policy and water policy as it relates to desalination of water and report to the Governor and Legislature by January 1, 2006.

Last Action: Chapter 648, Statutes of 2004.

AB 2967 (La Malfa)

This bill repeals the statutory provisions creating the California Consumer Power and Conservation Financing Authority and abolishes its funding mechanism, including transfer of its assets, liabilities, and surplus funds to the Energy Resources Programs Account.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Natural Resources.

ACR 118 (Wiggins)

Public broadcasting. Recognizes the contribution that the public broadcasting stations of this state make in educating and informing the citizens of our state. It also urges all state agencies to consider and explore partnerships with these stations that might assist in effectively and efficiently carrying out the responsibilities and mandates of those state agencies without increasing existing state expenditures.

Last Action: Held in Senate E., U., & C.

AJR 94 (Reyes)

Resolution urging the President of United States and Congress to ensure that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission increase the amount of refunds owed to California ratepayers as a result of energy companies manipulating the market during the state's energy crises.

Last Action: Held in Senate Rules.

SENATE BILLS**SB 67 (Bowen)**

Permits the Public Utilities Commission to require the investor owned utilities to begin meeting the procurement requirements of the Renewable Portfolio Standard when either investor owned utilities has obtained an investment grade credit rating as determined by at least two major rating agencies, or investor owned utility is able to procure eligible renewable energy resources on reasonable terms and the procurement will not impair the restoration investor owned utilities' creditworthiness.

Last Action: Chapter 731, Statutes of 2003.

SB 118 (Bowen)

Establishes a Solar Energy Peak Procurement Program in the Public Utilities Commission and a Solar Rebate program within the California Energy Commission for the installation of grid connected solar energy systems as specified and requires the

development of a Solar Peak Energy Affordable Housing Revolving Fund in the State Treasury.

Last Action: Held in Assembly U&C.

SB 128 (Bowen)

Requires providers of cellular telephone service to extend a minimum 30-day grace period to new customers during which the customer may rescind the agreement.

Last Action: Held on Assembly floor.

SB 168 (Energy, Utilities and Communication Committee)

Committee code clean up. Makes a number of technical changes to the Public Utilities Code and the Public Resources Code. Changes include correcting incorrect cross-references in Public Resources Code Sections; broadening the potential membership of an advisory board to the Public Interest Energy Research Program; eliminating requirements that the California Energy Commission file four quarterly reports, an annual report and an biennial report, on the Renewable Energy Program and consolidates these reports into one annual report; and appropriates \$40,000,000 from the High Cost Fund A Administrative Committee Fund and the Universal Lifeline Telephone Service Trust Administrative Committee Fund to the Public Utilities Commission for the purpose of paying prior year claims owed to telephone corporations providing services in high cost rural and small metropolitan areas;

Last Action: Chapter 733, Statutes of 2003.

SB 183 (Sher)

Makes substantive and non-substantive changes to the provisions governing renewable energy programs. The changes include, repealing code sections in the Public Utilities Code relating to the funding and administration of renewable energy programs at the California Energy Commission and recast the same language in multiple code sections in the Public Resources Code; requiring California Energy Commission to annually publish the balance of consumer incentive programs funds available to emerging renewable energy resources; eliminating California Energy Commission discretion to award grants for the development of new renewable electrical generation facilities to out-of-state renewable electricity generators; eliminating a requirement that California Energy Commission obtain Legislative approval before spending money collected and deposited in the Renewable Resources Trust Fund for renewable energy programs; and, allowing out-of-state renewable energy facilities to qualify as eligible renewable energy resources for procurement under the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) if: a) it will be connected to the Western Electricity Coordinating Council transmission system, and b) it participates in a renewable energy certificate based tracking system.

Last Action: Chapter 666, Statutes of 2003.

SB 185 (Sher)

Updates existing requirements that retail sellers of electricity disclose to end use customers and to the California Energy Commission the sources by fuel type of their electricity portfolio.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Judiciary Committee.

SB 199 (Murray)

Implemented the Solar Homes Peak Energy Procurement Program which created a rebate program for installation of new solar energy systems with the goal of installing solar system of a million homes by 2017. This bill included provisions requiring builders of new home developments of 25 homes or more to offer all buyers the option of a solar energy system and provisions for a rebate program to cover a portion of the cost of installing solar panels. The rebates would have been covered through ratepayer surcharges.

Last Actions: Failed in Assembly U&C.

SB 429 (Morrow)

Requires holding companies to assure the financial health of subsidiary public utilities and specifically grants the Public Utilities Commission jurisdiction to enforce these provision against holding companies.

Last Action: Failed Passage in Assembly U&C, was subsequently amended into an unrelated Torlakson bill.

SB 521 (Bowen)

Increase representation of small business interests at the Public Utilities Commission.

Last Action: Chapter 300, Statutes of 2003.

SB 659 (Soto)

Repeals provisions in existing law that require an expedited rehearing and expedited judicial review of Public Utilities Commission decisions arising out of the implementation of ABX1 1 (Keeley), Chapter 4, Statutes of 2001.

Last Action: Chapter 855, Statutes of 2004.

SB 666 (Bowen)

Requires the Communication Division of the Department of General Services to issue an annual report on the status of implementing 911 services.

Last Action: Amended in Assembly to provide statutory authority to transfer 62 acres for wetland preservation in the Ballona Wetlands fronting on Santa Monica Bay, north of the Los Angeles International Airport. Chapter 739, Statutes of 2003.

SB 704 (Florez)

Provides additional funds for the California Energy Commission to provide incentives for biomass-to-energy facilities that offset qualified agricultural burning within the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys.

Last Action: Chapter 480, Statutes of 2003.

SB 720 (Bowen)

Provides for one time payment of installation costs and discounts for use of high speed Internet services for schools, libraries, community-based organizations, and hospitals owned by cities or counties.

Last Action: Chapter 531, Statutes of 2003.

SB 772 (Bowen)

Allows Pacific Gas & Electric bankruptcy debts to be refinanced in a manner that saves Pacific Gas & Electric ratepayers over \$1 billion. Pacific Gas & Electric originally opposed the financing mechanism in this bill, but ultimately the utility supported this bill as a necessary means of emerging from bankruptcy.

Last Action: Chapter 46, Statutes of 2004.

SB 834 (Bowen)

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to consider how to encourage more competition in the high-speed communications services industry and make appropriate recommendations to the Legislature by July 1, 2004.

Last Action: Held in Assembly U&C.

SB 874 (Bowen)

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to adopt regulations that require utilities to respond expeditiously to a customer's request to net meter. If the utility believes it will have to alter the electric grid to comply with the request, the utility is required to clearly describe and justify those alterations. The Public Utilities Commission is required to resolve any disputes.

Last Action: Held in Assembly U&C.

SB 888 (Dunn)

Repeals provisions relating to implementing a market based electric industry structure under AB 1890 (Brulte), Chapter 854, Statutes of 1996, including modifying the existing definitions that govern regulatory policy for investor owned utilities as it pertains to cost recovery and the utilities customer base.

Last Action: Amended in the Assembly to prohibit the performance of any work involving information that is essential to homeland security at a work site outside of the United States (U.S.). Vetoed.

SB 911 (Alpert)

This bill creates in state government, the State 911 Advisory Board to advise the Telecommunications Division of the Department of General Services, comprised of specified members appointed by the Governor.

Last Action: Chapter 631, Statutes of 2003.

SB 920 (Bowen)

Eliminates the Electricity Oversight Board and transfers all legal and regulatory proceedings where Electricity Oversight Board is a party to the Attorney General and makes related changes to provisions concerning the Independent System Operator and the Power Exchange.

Last Action: Vetoed.

SB 1163 (Dunn)

Makes changes to the utility statements provided by the management of a mobilehome park to residents and requires the consumer affairs branch of the Public Utilities Commission to accept and respond to complaints made by submetered customers in mobilehome parks or apartment complexes.

Last Action: Chapter 728, Statutes of 2004.

SB 1201 (Torlakson)

Authorizes BART to purchase electrical power from a municipal utility and requires Pacific Gas & Electric Company to deliver that power over its transmissions and distribution facilities without delay. Pacific Gas & Electric must bill BART as though all power was delivered to a single meter.

Last Action: Chapter 613, Statutes of 2004.

SB 1276 (Bowen)

This bill extends the requirement for the Public Utilities Commission to provide affordable telephone rates in high cost areas and appropriates funds for the support of the California Teleconnect Program.

Last Action: Chapter 847, Statutes of 2004.

SB 1478 (Sher)

Accelerates existing requirements that that all utilities procure at least 20% of their power from renewable resources by 2017 to instead require the electric companies to procure 20% of their power from renewable resources by 2010.

Last Action: Vetoed.

SB 1488 (Bowen)

Requires the Public Utilities Commission to initiate a proceeding to review its public disclosure practices. Specifically the Public Utilities Commission should initiate a proceeding to review its practices under its electricity procurement proceeding and its public disclosure rules to ensure meaningful public participation and open decision making.

Last Action: Chapter 690, Statutes of 2004.

SB 1565 (Bowen)

Requires the California Energy Commission to include in its biennial Integrated Energy Policy Report a strategic plan for the state's electric transmission grid.

Last Action: Chapter 692, Statutes of 2004.

SB 1624 (Bowen)

This bill clarifies that Office of Ratepayer Advocates has all the rights of a party to intervene in the Public Utilities Commission proceedings and in judicial review Public Utilities Commission decisions. **Last action:** Held in Assembly U&C.

SB 1776 (Bowen)

Requires the California Energy Commission to establish a process for expedited review for the certification of thermal powerplants or related facilities.

Last action: Chapter 245, Statutes of 2004.

SB 1858 (Dunn)

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to ensure all funds paid to a telephone corporation from the 911 account are reflective of charges that are just and reasonable.

Last action amended in Assembly to establish a new definition for imitation firearms, generally prohibits the open display or exposure of imitation firearms in public places, and make numerous other changes related to imitation firearms. Chapter 607, Statutes of 2004.

SB 1891 (Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee)

Makes technical, non-controversial changes to existing law.

Last action: Chapter 694, Statutes of 2004.

SCR 30 (Poochigian)

This resolution concludes that energy-related refunds ordered by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or negotiated by the Attorney General, the Governor, or any other agent of the state, should be dedicated strictly to repay the Department of Water Resources energy bonds, or reduce or eliminate the rate surcharges dedicated to bond repayment.

Last action: Held in Assembly U&C.

SCR 39 (Johnson)

This resolution declares legislative intent that any municipal utility serving customers in newly developed areas shall be exempt from any exit fees, after meeting specified conditions.

Last Action: Held in Assembly U&C.

SJR 14 (Florez)

This resolution requests the Federal Communications Commission to formally delay the finalizing of the proposed rulemaking to promote competition and diversity in the media marketplace, and to schedule a public hearing to be held not later than June 15, 2003, in the Los Angeles area to facilitate the widest possible involvement of key elements of the creative community in the state.

Last Action: Held in Assembly U&C.