

2012

2011-2012 Legislative Summary

Assembly Committee on Utilities and Commerce

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ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES AND COMMERCE

2011-2012 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Assembly Committee on Utilities and Commerce 2011/2012 Legislative Summary

Note to readers: This is a compilation of all bills heard in the Assembly Committee on Utilities and Commerce. It is not a list of all energy-related bills heard in the 2011/2012 Session.

Electricity

AB 37 Huffman

This bill would require the PUC, by January 1, 2012, to identify alternative options for customers of investor owned utilities that decline smart meters. It also requires the PUC to require investor owned utilities to permit a customer to decline the installation a smart meter and make the alternative options available to that customer. The bill would also require the PUC to disclose certain information to customers about the technology of smart meters. The bill would require the PUC to direct each electrical corporation to suspend the deployment of advanced metering infrastructure until the PUC has complied with the above requirements.

Last Action: Died pursuant to Art. IV, Sec. 10(c) of the Constitution. From committee: Filed with the Chief Clerk pursuant to Joint Rule 56.

AB 277 Galgiani

This bill would require the California Research Bureau, by May 1, 2012, to develop an energy consumption profile that includes a forecast of the power needs of the high-speed rail system and an analysis of any recommendations for identifying a carbon-free baseline power supply for the system.

Last Action: Died pursuant to Art. IV, Sec. 10(c) of the Constitution. From committee: Filed with the Chief Clerk pursuant to Joint Rule 56.

AB 631 Ma

This bill would provide that the ownership, control, operation, or management of a facility that supplies electricity to the public only for use to charge light duty plug-in electric vehicles, as defined, does not make the corporation or person a public utility for purposes of the act.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 480, Statutes of 2011.

AB 1390 Committee on Utilities and Commerce

This bill renews existing authority allowing the Attorney General to represent the Electricity Oversight Board relative to the 2000-01 Energy Crisis settlements until January 1, 2013.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 179, Statutes of 2011.

AB 1457 Huber

This bill renews existing authority allowing the Attorney General to represent the Electricity Oversight Board relative to the 2000-01 Energy Crisis settlements for an indefinite period.

Last Action: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 1755 Perea

This bill authorizes the PUC to approve a fixed per-customer charge not based upon usage that applies to all residential customers of an electrical corporation, including CARE program

participants, to recover fixed costs of providing service, if the commission finds that the charge is just and reasonable. The bill would require the commission to ensure that electricity rates are affordable for qualified low-income ratepayers and would require electrical corporations to offer discounts or other ratepayer subsidies to ensure safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to these customers so that these customers are not at risk of service disconnections that would cause them to sacrifice electricity service.

Last Action: Held in the Senate.

AB 2516 Bradford

This bill would require CAISO to conduct internal operations in a manner that minimizes cost impact on ratepayers and to communicate with all balancing area authorities in California in a manner that supports electrical reliability.

Last Action: Chaptered by the Secretary of State, Chapter 127, Statutes of 2012.

ACR 144 Fong

This measure would urge that the full terms, conditions, and circumstances of the settlement between the PUC and NRG Energy be made available for public review and comment to ensure incorporation of key principles that will result in ratepayer benefit, consumer choice, and competitive fairness in California's electric vehicle market.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

AJR 33 Bradford

This measure would request the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to include in its investigation of the Southwest Power Outage an inquiry as to whether the balancing authorities were in compliance with rules that require a balancing authority to be able to maintain reliability in the event that one part of the system fails, to provide information to the Legislature on the status of its investigation into the Southwest Power Outage, and to provide oversight to the North American Electric Reliability Council and the Western Electricity Coordinating Council in a manner that ensures that balancing authorities are prepared for unplanned outages in the event that they are relying on electricity from or through another balancing authority.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

SB 855 Kehoe

This bill would increase the annual maximum allowable total kilowatt-hour limit for each electrical corporation to allow nonresidential customers to acquire electrical service from other providers.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

SB 1207 Fuller

Authorizes IOUs to take certain actions if a participant of the CARE program exceeds 400% or 600% of baseline usage.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 613, Statutes of 2012.

SB 1533 Padilla

This bill renews existing authority allowing the Attorney General to represent the Electricity Oversight Board relative to the 2000-01 Energy Crisis settlements until January 1, 2016.

Last Action: Chaptered by the Secretary of State, Chapter 226, Statutes of 2012.

Natural Gas and Gas Pipelines

AB 56 Hill

This bill implements numerous safety-related measures regarding the operation of natural gas pipeline facilities regulated by the PUC.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 519, Statutes of 2011.

AB 578 Hill

This bill would require the PUC, within 90 days of when the federal National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) submits a safety recommendation letter concerning gas pipeline safety to the PUC, to provide the NTSB with a formal written response to each recommendation.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 462, Statutes of 2012.

AB 861 Hill

This bill increases penalty levels for failure to comply with utility laws and requires the PUC to determine rate recovery by an electrical corporation or gas corporation that is a public utility for earnings or stock-based price-based incentive pay for its employees or directors.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 464, Statutes of 2012.

AB 1456 Hill

This bill requires the PUC to adopt safety performance metrics and consider specified principles when adopting safety performance metrics and authorizes the PUC to implement a rate incentive program that may contain penalties based on a gas corporation's safety performance.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 469, Statutes of 2012.

AB 1694 Fuentes

This bill requires that if a mobilehome park operator demonstrates compliance with the PUC's initial propane safety inspection then additional inspections will be made at least once every 7 years.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 112, Statutes of 2012.

AB 1900 Gatto

This bill requires the Office of Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), the CEC and the PUC to take specified actions related to the delivery of biomethane gas within common carrier natural gas pipelines operated by IOUs and for the state to investigate the impediments to using biomethane gas for the purposes of distributed electricity generation. This bill also exempts the specified actions applicable to the OEHHA from the requirements of the APA.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 602, Statutes of 2012.

AB 2559 Buchanan

This bill requires a city, county, or city and county to act on an application by a gas corporation that is a public utility for a ministerial pipeline project permit within a public street or highway or any other public right-of-way within 10 business days of determining that an application for the pipeline project, as defined, is complete, except as specified.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 486, Statutes of 2012.

SB 44 Corbett

This bill designates the PUC as the state authority responsible for regulating and enforcing intrastate gas pipeline transportation and pipeline facilities pursuant to federal law, including the development, submission, and administration of a state pipeline safety program certification for natural gas pipelines and requires the PUC, by July 1, 2012, to open an appropriate proceeding or expand the scope of an existing proceeding to establish compatible emergency response standards that owners or operators of commission-regulated gas pipeline facilities would be required to follow. The bill would require the owners of intrastate transmission lines to provide the State Fire Marshal and the chief fire official of the applicable local government with instructions on how to access and utilize the National Pipeline Mapping System developed by PHMSA to improve local response capabilities for pipeline emergencies. The bill would require the commission to report to the Legislature on the status of establishing the compatible emergency response standards on or before January 1, 2013.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 520, Statutes of 2011.

SB 216 Yee

The bill requires the PUC, unless it is preempted under federal law, to require the installation of automatic shutoff or remote controlled sectionalized block valves on certain intrastate transmission lines that are located in a high consequence area, as defined, or that traverse an active seismic earthquake fault. The bill would require the owner or operator of a commission-regulated gas pipeline facility that is an intrastate transmission line to provide the commission with a valve location plan, along with any recommendations for valve locations, and would authorize the commission to make modifications to the valve location plan.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 521, Statutes of 2011.

SB 705 Leno

This bill requires each gas corporation to develop a plan, as specified, for the safe and reliable operation of its PUC-regulated gas pipeline facility. The bill would require the PUC accept, modify, or reject the plan for each gas corporation by December 31, 2012, and to build into an approved plan sufficient flexibility to redirect activities to respond to safety requirements. The bill would require that the plan be periodically reviewed and updated.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 522, Statutes of 2011.

SB 879 Padilla

This bill would require, in any ratemaking proceeding in which the PUC authorizes a gas corporation to recover expenses for the gas corporation's transmission pipeline integrity management program established pursuant to specified federal pipeline safety law or related capital expenditures for maintenance and repair of transmission pipelines, that the PUC require the gas corporation to establish and maintain a balancing account for the recovery of those expenses. This bill will also increase the penalty for violation, neglect, or failure to comply with any provision of the California Constitution or the Public Utilities Act, or requirement of the PUC to not more than \$50,000 for each offense.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 523, Statutes of 2011.

Transmission and Distribution

AB 725 Bradford

This bill would require the PUC to open an appropriate proceeding to evaluate whether to amend, revise, or improve its rules for replacing overhead electrical and communications facilities with underground facilities and report to the Legislature on its evaluation by June 30, 2012.

Last Action: Died pursuant to Art. IV, Sec. 10(c) of the Constitution. From committee: Filed with the Chief Clerk pursuant to Joint Rule 56.

AB 1027 Buchanan

This bill requires a POU to make appropriate space and capacity on and in their utility poles and support structures available for use by cable television corporations, video service providers, and telephone corporations and requires fees adopted to cover the costs to provide this use, and terms and conditions of access, to meet specified requirements, and specifies the manner in which these fees and terms and conditions of access could be challenged.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 580, Statutes of 2011.

AB 1214 Skinner

This bill would require the CAISO and the PUC to jointly evaluate all electrical transmission facilities that have been identified in the CAISO's most recently approved transmission plan and determine which of those transmission facilities are necessary or useful to interconnect eligible renewable energy resources to facilitate achievement of the procurement requirements established for retail sellers and local publicly owned electric utilities pursuant to the RPS program. The bill would require the CPUC and ISO, by March 31, 2012, to publish a report that includes a time frame for obtaining all governmental approvals for, construction of, and placement into service of, each of the transmission facilities determined to be necessary or useful to interconnect eligible renewable energy resources pursuant to the bill's requirements. The bill would require the CPUC and the ISO to coordinate the ISO's transmission planning process and identification of needed transmission facilities with the CPUC's issuance of certificates of public convenience and necessity for transmission facilities.

Last Action: Held in Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee.

AB 2235 Hagman

This bill would authorize an owner of property to seek compensation for any substantial reduction in the value of the property proximately resulting from the building, expansion, or operation of a plant, line, pipeline, or other facility by a public utility. The bill would provide that the evidentiary rules and rules of civil procedures applicable to inverse condemnation actions would apply to such an action.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 698, Statutes of 2012.

AB 2556 Allen

This bill would require each IOU and POU to avoid excessive tree trimming that threatens the health of a tree, to make a good faith effort to implement good forestry practices and vegetation management practices, and to preserve the health of mountainous lands, forest-covered lands, and brush-covered lands. Would prohibit removal of trees unless specified circumstances exist and require the utility to obtain the written confirmation by an arborist of the need to remove a tree and to provide specified notice prior to removal of a tree. Would require IOU or POU to

annually provide a copy of the company's vegetation management plan to the affected locality, publish the plan on its Internet Web site, and provide notification to affected property owners prior to conducting vegetation management.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 2590 Blumenfield

This bill would require IOUs to post on their Internet Web sites any report required by a revision to the commission's Electric Rule 21, if that revision is adopted after January 1, 2012. The bill would prohibit a report posted on Internet Web sites from including information proprietary to a developer applying for interconnection.

Last Action: Held in Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee.

AJR 13 Vargas

This measure would call upon the Secretary of the United States Department of Energy to reject Sempra Energy's application to construct the Energía Sierra Juárez cross-border transmission line between Mexico and California in order to preserve jobs in California, promote energy independence, and uphold California's labor and environmental laws.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State. Resolution. Chapter 96, Statutes of 2011.

Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency

AB 317 Charles Calderon

This bill would provide that rebates do not include ratepayer funded incentives received by the master-meter customer as a result of investments in energy generation or efficiency, including the self-generation incentive program, the CSI, and the Solar Water Heating and Efficiency Act of 2007.

Last Action: Amended and referred to Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee.

AB 512 Gordon

This bill increases the capacity of a qualified self-generation facility from 1 megawatt (MW) to 5 MW that would be eligible for a local government program that allows a municipality to generate electricity at one location to offset electricity usage at another municipal location.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 478, Statutes of 2011.

AB 642 Charles Calderon

This bill would enact the Salton Sea Stabilization and Agricultural Cultivation Act, which would establish an Algae Production Program in the Imperial Valley and authorize grants to eligible research institutions and commercial enterprises for research and demonstration projects leading to the commercial development of algae.

Last Action: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 721 Bradford

This bill would expand the definition of an eligible renewable energy resource to include a facility that generates, or a renewable energy credit associated with the generation of, electricity from an eligible solar energy system that receives monetary incentives pursuant to specified law.

Last Action: Died pursuant to Art. IV, Sec. 10(c) of the Constitution. From committee: Filed with the Chief Clerk pursuant to Joint Rule 56.

AB 723 Bradford

This bill extends the sunset date the authority of the PUC to assess a public goods charge on ratepayers from 2012 to 2020. The electricity PGC is a nonbypassable surcharge imposed on all retail sales to fund public goods research, development and demonstration, and energy efficiency activities.

Last Action: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 724 Bradford

This bill extends the sunset date the authority of the PUC to assess a public goods charge on ratepayers from 2012 to 2020. The electricity PGC is a nonbypassable surcharge imposed on all retail sales to fund public goods research, development and demonstration, and energy efficiency activities.

Last Action: Held in Senate Rules Committee.

AB 864 Huffman

This bill would require that distributed energy resources with a nameplate generating capacity of up to 10 megawatts are eligible for incentives but would limit the award of incentives to not more than 5 megawatts of that capacity.

Last Action: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 904 Skinner

This bill requires the PUC to evaluate the efficacy of the energy efficiency programs.

Last Action: Amended and re-referred to Senate Governance and Finance Committee.

AB 932 Blumenfield

This bill would enact the Renewable Transition Financing Act authorizing a financing entity, as defined, to issue green rate reduction bonds for the recovery of transition costs from customers of an electrical corporation.

Last Action: Died pursuant to Art. IV, Sec. 10(c) of the Constitution. From committee: Filed with the Chief Clerk pursuant to Joint Rule 56.

AB 1073 Fuentes

This bill would provide that the thermal powerplant certification process would apply to a proposed conversion of a solar thermal powerplant that was timely challenged if the challenge was subsequently dismissed by the California Supreme Court.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 14, Statutes of 2011.

AB 1113 Galgiani

This bill would replace an existing pilot program for eligible biogas digester customer-generators with a net energy metering program for eligible customer-generators, as defined, that use agricultural residues, animal wastes, or animal renderings to generate electricity and that meet certain requirements.

Last Action: Died pursuant to Art. IV, Sec. 10(c) of the Constitution. From committee: Filed with the Chief Clerk pursuant to Joint Rule 56.

AB 1124 Skinner

As heard in Utilities and Commerce Committee on May 4, 2011, this bill would have added furnaces and water heating systems to the list of eligible energy efficiency improvements through the LIEE Program. This bill was amended in the Senate on June 12, 2012 to address existing law that requires any building with a dwelling unit maintain certain characteristics in order to be tenantable, including the maintenance of adequate heating and hot water systems that conform to the standard of quality set by applicable law. As amended this bill requires that these provisions not be interpreted to prohibit a tenant or owner from qualifying for energy savings assistance programs for repair or replacement of heating or hot water systems.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 600, Statutes of 2012.

AB 1150 V. Manuel Perez

This bill extends the sunset on the SGIP. This bill extends through 2014, the PUC's authority to collect \$83 million annually from ratepayers for SGIP program.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 310, Statutes of 2011.

AB 1186 Skinner

This bill creates the School Energy Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund as a special fund in the State Treasury. The bill would provide grants to eligible institutions for building retrofits to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and reduce the demand for energy.

Last Action: Vetoed by Governor.

SB 1268 Pavley

This bill extends the operation an existing energy efficiency loan program administered by the CEC that assists local governments and includes consideration for measures that reduce peak electricity demand. This bill would direct the CEC to take steps to ensure an equitable distribution of loans, in areas where there are high peak loads or transmission/distribution constraints, and in disadvantaged communities.

Last Action: Died pursuant to Art. IV, Sec. 10(c) of the Constitution. From committee: Filed with the Chief Clerk pursuant to Joint Rule 56.

AB 1302 Williams

This bill would require large electrical corporations and large local publicly owned electric utility to provide maps and other information identifying and designating zones within their respective service territories that are optimal for deployment of distributed generation. The bill would require the PUC and large local publicly owned electric utilities to develop rules to implementation this bill. The bill would require state agencies to give priority for distributed generation projects proposed to be located within a zone designated pursuant to these provisions.

Last Action: Still pending in Senate Energy, Utilities and Commerce Committee.

AB 1303 Williams

This bill extends the sunset date from 2012 to 2020 on the public goods charge for public interest energy activities and the programs funded by the Renewable Resources Trust Fund (RRTF).

Last Action: Held in Senate Energy, Utilities and Commerce Committee.

AB 1361 Perea

This bill increases the maximum capacity allowed for net metering of photovoltaic (PV), wind, or hybrid PV/wind projects eligible if the project is located on premises owned, leased, or rented

by a state agency. This bill would increase the current cap on net metered projects from 1 MW to 5 MW if the project is located on properties controlled by a state agency.

Last Action: Died pursuant to Art. IV, Sec. 10(c) of the Constitution. From committee: Filed with the Chief Clerk pursuant to Joint Rule 56.

AB 1391 Bradford

This bill transfers authority from CARB to the CEC to assess penalties upon POU for non-compliance of the state's RPS.

Last Action: Held in Senate Rules Committee.

AB 1392 Bradford

This bill deletes obsolete authority vested in the PUC to consider exempting from the California Solar Initiative's time-variant tariff those residential customers whose rates were protected under a rate freeze adopted during the electricity crisis of 2000-01. *Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 488, Statutes of 2011.*

AB 1711 Galgiani

This bill would make specific what constitutes an unreasonable or unnecessary effect on the home purchasing process or the ability of individuals to rent housing. It does this by including certain costs or delays affecting the close of escrow related to energy efficiency improvements.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

AB 1771 Valadao

This bill removes the criteria limiting RPS-eligible hydroelectric generating facilities to 30 megawatt or less.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

AB 1868 Pan

This bill expands the RPS banking rules to authorize excess procurement accumulated through December 31, 2010, to be applied to subsequent RPS compliance periods if specified conditions are met. This bill directs the PUC to adopt rules permitting a retail seller to apply excess procurement in one period to subsequent compliance periods and directs the CEC to adopt rules permitting a POU to apply excess procurement in one period to subsequent compliance periods.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

AB 1990 Fong

This bill establishes a small-scale renewable generation program in the state's most impacted and disadvantaged communities.

Last Action: Held in the Senate.

AB 2165 Hill

This bill increases the cap on net energy metering for eligible fuel cell generators and makes revisions to the definition of eligible fuel cell generators and allows the PUC to authorize a fee for interconnection inspection costs for those fuel cell generators.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 603, Statutes of 2012.

AB 2187 Bradford

This bill allows the procurement restrictions on renewable energy contracts executed after January 13, 2011 by electric service providers to count toward the RPS mandate.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 604, Statutes of 2012.

AB 2196 Chesbro

This bill clarifies the definition of an eligible renewable electrical generation facility to include a facility that generates electricity utilizing biomethane delivered through a common carrier pipeline if the source and delivery of the fuel can be verified by the CEC. This bill counts in full, as eligible generation for purpose of complying with the RPS, electric generation that relies on procurement of biomethane from a contract executed, by a retail seller or local publicly owned utility and reported to the CEC, prior to March 29, 2012.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 605, Statutes of 2012.

AB 2234 Hill

This bill raises the maximum size of renewable energy projects eligible for net metering for public agency utility customers.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

AB 2249 Buchanan

This bill expands the definition of a solar water heating system and revises exclusions from the definition of a solar water heating system.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 607, Statutes of 2012.

AB 2339 Williams

This bill requires the CEC, in consultation with the PUC, CARB, cities, counties, special districts, and other stakeholders, to evaluate policies to overcome barriers to the use of geothermal heat pump and geothermal ground loop technologies by July 1, 2013.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 608, Statutes of 2012.

AB 2340 Williams

This bill requires the PUC to hold a formal proceeding, on or before July 1, 2013, to develop rules for ratepayer reimbursement of distribution grid upgrade costs to accommodate the interconnection of developers of generating facilities.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

AB 2341 Williams

This bill requires the PUC to ensure through its electric general rate cases and related proceedings, that all investments in the distribution grid are compatible with optimal deployment of distributed generation, to the extent grid upgrades are required to meet a goal of 12,000 megawatts of distributed generation by 2020.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

AB 2390 Chesbro

This bill requires the CEC to provide incentives to producers and collectors of biomass material associated with forest fuel reduction and fire prevention activities.

Last Action: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 2514 Bradford

This bill requires the PUC to complete a study on the costs and benefits of net energy metering by October 2013.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 609, Statutes of 2012.

SBX1 2 Simitian

This bill increases California's RPS to require all retail sellers of electricity and all POUs to procure at least 33% of electricity delivered to their retail customers from renewable resources by 2020.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 1, Statutes of 2011-12 Extraordinary Session

SB 23 Simitian

This bill makes a number of technical and substantive changes to the recently signed SB 2 X1 (Simitian) in the First Extraordinary Session, Chapter 1, Statutes of 2011 which increased California's RPS from 20% by 2010 to 33% by 2020.

Last Action: Held in the Senate.

SB 58 Runner

This bill extends provisions regarding the establishment of the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds EE and PV Synergy Demonstration Project, a project that would include the installation of cost-effective energy-efficient equipment and fixtures, and a photovoltaic solar energy system of up to 630 kilowatts until January 1, 2018.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

SB 343 de Leon

This bill allocates an unspecified amount of the public goods charge energy efficiency program funds to a newly established revolving loan program to finance energy retrofits of commercial properties.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

SB 489 Wolk

This bill expands renewable energy technologies eligible for net metering from solar, wind, and biogas digester generators to any "renewable electrical generation facility," as defined.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 593, Statutes of 2011.

SB 594 Wolk

This bill will allow an electric utility customer to aggregate their electricity usage on multiple meters for purposes of establishing the maximum project size for renewable generation and fuel cells for purposes of net energy metering.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 610, Statutes of 2012.

SB 585 Kehoe

This bill will allow the PUC to authorize IOUs to continue to collect funds from ratepayers so that a funding shortfall within the CSI can be addressed.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 312, Statutes of 2011.

SB 771 Kehoe

This bill specifies that natural gas engines, landfill gas engines, digester gas engines, landfill gas turbines, digester gas turbines, and microturbines are ultralow-emission equipment for energy based on thermal energy systems and thus eligible for financial assistance under the CAEAFTA Act.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 598, Statutes of 2011.

SB 836 Padilla

The bill requires the PUC to release the costs of all contracts, in aggregate form, submitted by the investor-owned utilities to meet the state's RPS goals, which are approved by the PUC. The first data release would be required in February 1, 2012, and annually thereafter.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 600, Statutes of 2011.

SB 843 Wolk

This bill establishes a new business model that would allow developers of renewable projects to sell electricity to customers of IOUs.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

SB 870 Padilla

This bill reforms the current PIER by establishing the California Energy Research and Technology Program (CERT) funded by the Public Goods Charge Program (PGC).

Last Action: Held in the Assembly.

SB 939 Wright

This bill would eliminate an administrative process which provides that funds collected by gas corporations for natural gas public purpose programs must first be deposited into an account at the BOE before being transferred to a gas corporation to be used for public purpose programs.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 1122 Rubio

This bill requires statewide procurement of up to 250 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy from small biomass or biogas technologies that utilize low emission technologies.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 612, Statutes of 2012.

SB 1332 Negrete McLeod

This bill modifies current law with regard to Feed in Tariffs (FIT) contracts offered by publicly owned utilities.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 616, Statutes of 2012.

SB 1409 Pavley

This bill enhances the duties of the State Office of Planning and Research (OPR).

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 617, Statutes of 2012.

SBX1 1 Steinberg

This bill would require the Controller annually to allocate \$8,000,000 from the RRTF or other related fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for expenditure in the form of grants to school districts to be allocated pursuant to the existing provisions for creating and maintaining partnership academies. The bill would require the CEC to adopt guidelines to ensure that programs receiving grants reflect current state energy policies and priorities as well as provide skills and education linked to the needs of relevant industries. The bill would authorize a school district to apply for planning grants for implementing a partnership academy and would allow the Superintendent to expend up to 5% of the funds transferred to the Superintendent to pay the costs incurred in the administration of this program. The bill would require the Superintendent to provide a report to the Legislature that includes a description of the curriculum and substance of the programs funded by grants awarded. The bill would provide that the bill's provisions would become inoperative on June 30, 2017, and, as of January 1, 2018, would repeal these provisions.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 2, Statutes of 2011-12 Extraordinary Session.

Consumer Protection & Low-Income Assistance

AB 2461 Davis

This bill requires the PUC to expand the scope of the Energy Savings Assistance Program to increase its penetration in low-income communities, and specifically to include schools, small businesses, and community centers.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

SB 454 Pavley

This bill authorizes the CEC to enforce, including civil penalties, against violations of its appliance efficiency standards. The bill requires utility energy efficiency rebates to be provided only if work complies with applicable permitting and contractor licensing requirements.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 591, Statutes of 2011.

SB 674 Padilla

This bill repeals the California High Speed Internet Access Act of 1999 by deleting an obsolete provision in law, clarifies treatment of photovoltaic rebates when projects are installed in mobile home parks, and extends privacy provisions for utility customers to 3rd party consultants.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 255, Statutes of 2011.

SB 679 Pavley

This bill appropriates \$25 million to the Energy Conservation Assistance Account (ECAA) from \$50 million previously appropriated from the RRTF to CAEATFA to support Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 597, Statutes of 2011.

SB 1537 Kehoe

This bill prohibits the PUC from adopting any new charges that only apply to customers with a net metering tariff until January 1, 2014.

Last Action: Vetoed by Governor.

Communications

AB 136 Beall

This bill expands the PUC Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program (DDTP) to include assistance to individuals with speech disabilities.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 404, Statutes of 2011.

AB 449 Mitchell

This bill requires a wireless service provider, upon activation of service to cause emergency contact information to be programmed into the subscriber's mobile telephone.

Last Action: Died pursuant to Art. IV, Sec. 10(c) of the Constitution. From committee: Filed with the Chief Clerk pursuant to Joint Rule 56.

AB 770 Torres

This bill expands the size and responsibilities of the state's 911 Advisory Board.

Last Action: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 841 Buchanan

This bill authorizes the PUC to require interconnected VoIP service providers to collect and remit surcharges on their California intrastate revenues in support of the universal service funds.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 685, Statutes of 2011.

AB 1050 Ma

This bill enacts the Prepaid Wireless Mobile Telephony Services Surcharge and Collection Act. The bill would establish a prepaid communications charge MTS surcharge, as defined, based upon a percentage of the sales price of each retail transaction that occurs in this state for prepaid mobile telephony services, as defined.

Last Action: Held in Senate Governance and Finance Committee.

AB 1074 Fuentes

This bill extends certain immunities to specified companies in the provision of 9-1-1 emergency assistance services and provides that a retail or wholesale service provider of telecommunications service, or other service, involved in providing 9-1-1 service, shall not be liable for any claim, damage, or loss caused by an action or omission of the company, business, or individual in the design, development, installation, maintenance, or provision of 9-1-1 service, unless the act or omission that proximately caused the claim, damage, or loss constituted gross negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 297, Statutes of 2011.

AB 1268 Blumenfield

This bill requires a provider of a mobile telephone service to alert the subscriber when the set of allotment of airtime or text messages has been reached.

Last Action: Died pursuant to Art. IV, Sec. 10(c) of the Constitution. From committee: Filed with the Chief Clerk pursuant to Joint Rule 56.

AB 1386 Bradford

This bill encourages cable television corporations and direct broadcast satellite providers to voluntarily adopt a plan for increasing women, minority, and disabled veteran business enterprise

procurement and to voluntarily report activity in this area to the Legislature on an annual basis. This bill requires the PUC to make this report available on its Internet Web site.
Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 443, Statutes of 2011.

AB 2153 Fletcher

This bill deletes a date that requires a provider of mobile telephony services to provide subscribers with a means by which a subscriber can obtain reasonably current and available information, as determined by the provider, on the subscriber's text messaging and Internet usage and charges.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

AB 2281 Torres

This bill makes changes to the State 9-1-1 Advisory Board.

Last Action: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 2459 Torres

This bill requires the California 911 Emergency Communications Office to develop and implement a public education campaign to instruct the public on appropriate and inappropriate use of the 911 emergency telephone number system.

Last Action: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 3 Padilla

This bill extends the sunset date for the California High Cost Fund A (CHCF-A) and California High Cost Fund B (CHF-B) collections, and requires voice over internet protocol (VoIP) service providers to collect and remit surcharges to state universal service programs.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 695, Statutes of 2011.

SB 379 Fuller

This bill modifies the California High Cost Fund - A (CHCF-A) program to align the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) modification of the federal universal service program to allow high-cost support for the California Independent Telecommunications Companies broadband-capable facilities in rural areas.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 729, Statutes of 2012.

SB 1160 Padilla

This bill prohibits a governmental entity, and a provider of communication service acting at the request of a governmental entity, from intentionally interrupting communication service for the purpose of protecting public safety or preventing use of the service for an illegal purpose except pursuant to a court order based on a finding of probable cause.

Last Action: Vetoed by Governor.

SB 1161 Padilla

This bill requires authorization by statute or express delegation by federal law expressly authorized by statute for the PUC or any other state department, agency, commission or political subdivision of the state to regulate VoIP or Internet Protocol-enabled (IP) service providers.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 733, Statutes of 2012.

Water Rates

AB 1830 V. Manuel Pérez

This bill authorizes the PUC, if it finds that a mobilehome park has charged an unjust or unreasonable rate for tenant water services, to order the mobilehome park to reimburse the complainant.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 539, Statutes of 2012.

SB 1364 Huff

This bill subjects water corporations with more than 2,000 service connections to the same reporting and auditing powers of the PUC currently imposed on electrical, gas, and telephone corporations.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 224, Statutes of 2012.

Charter Party Carriers

AB 45 Hill

This bill expands the provisions concerning under-age drinking to apply to drivers of charter-party carriers, with certain exemptions.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 461, Statutes of 2012.

Household Goods Carriers

AB 2118 Butler

This bill amends the Household Goods Carriers Act to enhance the authority of the PUC to regulate household goods carriers.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 544, Statutes of 2012.

Regulatory

AB 1370 Roger Hernandez

This bill revises the definition of what is the ratepayer's interest and require that activities that benefit ratepayers be measured by the program's impact on rates and costs and benefits of the program from the perspective of ratepayers, determined by calculating a benefit versus cost ratio greater than one on a total portfolio basis.

Last Action: Died pursuant to Art. IV, Sec. 10(c) of the Constitution. From committee: Filed with the Chief Clerk pursuant to Joint Rule 56.

AB 2584 Bradford

This bill requires electric and gas corporations to retain documentation from an accident for five years and to fully cooperate with the PUC in its investigations and provide the PUC, upon request, access to specified information.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 262, Statutes of 2012.

Administrative

AB 838 Hill

This bill creates an Assistant Director of Public Safety at the PUC. This individual would be in charge of coordinating safety information across PUC's many divisions to make sure that safety is a consideration in all PUC decisions, including ratemaking.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 341, Statutes of 2012.

AB 976 Hall

This bill prohibits consultants advising Community Choice Aggregators (CCA) from bidding on CCA contracts. Prohibits a CCA from purchasing electricity or energy services from an entity that provided analysis, advice, consulting, or other services to CCA prior to CCA notifying that CCA service will commence.

Last Action: Vetoed by Governor.

AB 1055 Hill

This bill prohibits a commissioner or employee of the PUC from knowingly soliciting specified contributions from persons or entities that PUC regulates, or from people who represent entities regulated by PUC, or sitting on a board that solicits contributions from the same.

Last Action: Vetoed by Governor.

AB 1131 Lara

This bill requires the Director of the Department of General Services (DGS) to report on the status of leasing state owned lands to wireless telecommunications providers and recommendations for improvement.

Last Action: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 1514 Bonnie Lowenthal

This bill increases civil penalties for violations of excavation laws and authorizes the PUC to prescribe rules for public utilities that are conducting subsurface operations and provide information to the State Attorney General or local district attorney on matters involving excavation violations.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 1541 Dickinson

This bill would subject certain actions by the PUC to the Public Record Act subject to exemptions for security-related information, proprietary business information, market-sensitive information, and personally identifiable employee or customer information.

Last Action: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 1650 Portantino

This bill requires the PUC to establish standards for disaster and emergency preparedness plans within an existing procedure.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 472, Statutes of 2012.

AB 1703 Hill

This bill establishes reporting requirements for public utilities with regard to specified settlements of civil actions and prescribes penalties for non-compliance.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

AB 2097 Hill

This bill required an investor-owned utility that provides gas or electric service, or both, to annually report to the PUC on the disposition of all civil complaints against the utility where a matter of public safety that has substantial likelihood to jeopardize the lives or health of Californians is the gravamen of a claim in the complaint.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

AB 2199 Bradford

This bill deletes an obsolete statute that directs the PUC to complete a report by June 2002.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

AB 2227 Bradford

This bill recasts and revises reporting requirements applicable to publicly owned utilities and revises certain reporting requirements.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 606, Statutes of 2012.

AB 2696 Committee on Utilities and Commerce

This bill corrects Public Utilities Code references to code sections that were moved or repealed as a result of other enacted statutes.

Last Action: Held in the Senate.

SB 790 Leno

This bill revises and expands the definition of CCA, requires the PUC to initiate a Code of Conduct rulemaking, and allow CCAs to receive Public Purpose funds to administer energy efficiency programs.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 599, Statutes of 2011.

SB 1000 Yee

This bill requires PUC investigation orders, recommendations, and accident reports to be made publicly available pursuant to the California Public Records Act.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

ACRONYMS

APA	Administrative Procedures Act
BOE	Board of Equalization
CAISO	California Independent System Operator
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CAEAFTA	California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority
CARE	California Alternative Rates for Energy
CCC	California Community Colleges
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CHCF	California High Cost Fund
CHP	Combined Heat and Power
CSI	California Solar Initiative
CTF	California Teleconnect Fund
DIVCA	Digital Infrastructure and Video Competition Act
E911	Enhanced 911
ETUSA	Emergency Telephone Users Surcharge Account
FERA	Family Electric Rate Assistance
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
IEPR	Integrated Energy Policy Report
IOU	Investor Owned Utilities
LIEE	Low-Income Energy Efficiency
LWDA	Labor and Workforce Development Agency
OPR	Office of Planning and Research
PIER	Public Interest Energy Research
PGC	Public Goods Charge
POU	Public Owned Utility
PUC	California Public Utilities Commission
PUCHA	Public Utilities Holding Company Act
RPS	Renewable Portfolio Standard
RRTF	Renewable Resources Trust Fund
SGIP	Self Generation Incentive Program
VoIP	Voice over Internet Protocol