

Assembly Committee on Utilities and Commerce 2007 – 2008 Legislative Summary

Electricity

AB 94 (Committee on Utilities and Commerce)

Committee code clean-up bill. Eliminates and amends sections of the Public Utilities Code that reference the Public Utilities Holding Company Act of 1935 (PUHCA), which was repealed by the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005. Makes a number of technical changes to various provisions of the state law relating to public utilities.

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

AB 292 (Blakeslee)

Extends the sunset date on the Nuclear Planning Assessment Special Account from July 1, 2009, to July 1, 2019. Requires that any money remaining in the account when it becomes inoperative be returned to the contributing utility for rebates to that utility's ratepayers. Revises the funding levels payable from the account beginning with the 2009-10 fiscal year and revises the manner for annual adjustments and compounding of funding available for the Diablo Canyon site.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 492, Statutes of 2007.

AB 578 (Blakeslee)

Requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to study and submit a report to the Legislature and the Governor on the impacts of distributed energy generation on the state's distribution and transmission grid.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 627, Statutes of 2008.

AB 588 (De Leon)

Requires utilities to allow customers the ability to release their utility service payment history to a financial institution or consumer reporting agency.

Last Action: Held in Senate Judiciary Committee.

AB 705 (Huffman)

Requires the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources in the Department of Conservation, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the Resources Agency, to develop standards and regulations for geologic carbon sequestration projects. Establishes the California Carbon Capture and Geological Sequestration Standards Board comprised of representatives from the above-named agencies to ratify or revise standards and regulations developed by the agencies.

Last Action: Amended and re-referred to Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

AB 940 (Krekorian)

Requires the Office of Planning and Research (OPR), by July 1, 2008, to report on recommendations for streamlining the siting of solar energy facilities and related transmission facilities.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 1064 (Lieber)

Expands eligibility for Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) rebates to include advanced solar thermal technologies, and technologies using landfill gas and waste gas. Requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to submit a report to the Legislature on the costs and benefits of SGIP to residential and small commercial ratepayers.

Last Action: Held in Senate Energy and Communications Committee.

AB 1613 (Blakeslee)

Establishes the Waste Heat and Carbon Emissions Reduction Act (Act). Permits the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to require utilities to purchase excess combined heat and power (CHP)-generated electricity, requires a publicly owned utility to provide a market for excess CHP-generated electricity, and requires utilities to include CHP technologies in their procurement plan to the maximum degree that is cost-effective. Requires the CPUC to establish a pilot program that provides financing mechanisms and permits the CPUC to apply the costs and benefits over all customer classes.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 713, Statutes of 2007.

AB 1755 (Fuentes)

Requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to review its Plant Held for Future Use Guidelines that allows the maximum time a transmission line and substation that's not related to a new power plant can be held for future use, to no more than five years. Requires the CPUC to determine whether it needs to open a proceeding to adjust the time period allowed for property to be held by an electric utility when the property is located within a transmission corridor zone.

Last Action: Vetoed by Governor.

AB 1807 (Fuentes)

Requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to develop a feed-in tariff for eligible renewable electric generation that is at least 1.5 megawatts and less than 20 MW in size. Requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to study the feasibility and desirability of implementing a feed-in tariff for renewable generation units that are larger than 20 MW.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

AB 1909 (Hayashi)

Requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to obtain approval from the local governing body if the proposed site for a powerplant is in the City of Hayward and that city has a pre-certified powerplant.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

AB 1920 (Huffman)

Expands the current net-metering programs for wind and solar, to allow the net-metered customers to sell any excess electricity they produce over the course of a year to their electric utility.

Last Action: Held in Senate Rules Committee.

AB 2586 (Torrico)

Provides a number of protections for tenants who face an eviction or other adverse action as a result of a foreclosure against the property owner, including limitations on the ability of public utilities to terminate service for non-payment.

Last Action: Vetoed by Governor.

AB 2775 (Smyth)

Authorize electrical corporations to acquire property for future electrical transmission and nontransmission purposes and carry this property within the "plant held for future use account" after approval by the commission, as provided.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

AB 2791 (Blakeslee)

Allows federal, state, and local governments to participate in an existing program that enables customers who plan on generating electricity from a combined heat and power (CHP) system to finance all of the upfront costs for the purchase and installation of a CHP system by repaying those costs through on-bill financing.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 253, Statutes of 2008.

SB 980 (Padilla)

Requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to evaluate, by November 1, 2009, the adequacy of the electric distribution system of local publicly owned electric utilities that meet specific criteria as part of its Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR). Requires the CEC to compare the adequacy of the electric distribution systems of local utilities with investor-owned electric utilities.

Last Action: Vetoed by Governor.

SB 1012 (Kehoe)

Extends the sunset on the Self Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) by one year and allows the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to determine additional distributed-generation technologies eligible for subsidies. Requires combined heat and power units, in order to be eligible, to meet specific greenhouse gas emission performance standards. Requires the CPUC to ensure the SGIP program is made available for all customers. Requires the CPUC to provide an additional incentive of 20 percent from existing program funds for the installation of qualifying distributed-generation resources that are manufactured in California by companies that have their principal place of business on California.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 1017 (Perata)

Requires an electrical corporation to transmit and distribute East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) generated electricity to serve EBMUD load at other locations. Requires EBMUD to pay applicable rates approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 668, Statutes of 2007.

SB 1438 (Padilla)

Requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), in consultation with the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), to determine the requirements for a "smart grid" deployment plan and adopt standards and protocols by July 1, 2010. Requires each electrical corporation to submit a smart grid deployment plan to the CPUC for approval by July 1, 2011.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 1536 (Dutton)

Deletes references to the now-defunct California Power Exchange in statute. Later amended to relieve statutory mandates imposed by ABX1 1 (Keeley) Chapter 4, Statutes of 2001, which capped the electricity rates on low-energy user residential customers, suspended direct-access transactions, and authorized the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to procure wholesale electricity for the investor-owned utilities.

Action: Passed by Utilities and Commerce Committee on June 16, 2008 with a vote of 11-0. This bill was then amended into a Senator Kehoe bill relating to rates. On August 22, 2008, the bill was referred back to the Utilities and Commerce Committee (see below for description of amended version of SB 1536).

SB 1536 (Kehoe)

Imposes controls over electricity rate changes for electricity usage for residential customers of up to 130 percent of baseline. Prohibits the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) from imposing mandatory dynamic pricing on residential ratepayers, and allows currently eligible direct-access customers to expand direct-access service to existing meters that currently receive bundled utility service, and to add new direct-access accounts.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

SB 1645 (Wiggins)

Requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) in partnership with the Office of Planning and Research (OPR), to update its 1993 "Energy Aware Planning Guide" (Guide), a community development planning tool for local governments. The guide provides local governments with an understanding of the linkages between energy, land-use planning, air quality, transportation and economic trade-offs, and offers ideas and examples of energy-efficient planning with regard to land use, building standards, water use, and solid waste reduction.

Last Action: Vetoed by Governor.

SB 1714 (Negrete McLeod)

Expands an existing feed-in-tariff program that requires utilities to purchase electricity from small-scale renewable electricity generators owned by a public water or wastewater agency to include renewable electricity produced by any public or private customer of an electric utility.
Last Action: Held in Senate.

SB 1737 (Machado)

Requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and California Energy Commission (CEC) to implement measures and create a task force to facilitate the widespread deployment of the use of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles in California.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 286, Statutes 2008.

Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency

AB 140 (Garcia)

Permits the Desert Water Agency to expand the types of resources it can use to generate electricity, and to develop electricity for the construction, treatment, and disposal of sewage. Permits the Desert Water Agency to sell excess renewable electricity to the electrical utility.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 29, Statutes of 2007.

AB 625 (Levine)

Creates a program for California's higher education facilities to integrate energy efficiency technologies in the educational curriculum and perform advanced energy efficient retrofits on the participating schools and public buildings that capture the greatest energy savings. The program is funded by the Williams Settlement Agreement, which required a specified amount of the settlement proceeds to be applied toward retrofitting schools and public buildings.

Last Action: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 722 (Levine)

Requires minimum energy efficiency requirements for general purpose light bulbs. After a phase-in period most general purpose lights must achieve a 50 lumens per watt standard. The efficiency standards were set at levels that would have required to phase out of most incandescent light bulbs by 2012.

Last Action: Held on Assembly Inactive file.

AB 746 (Krekorian)

Reinstates an expedited six-month siting process for thermal power plants larger than 50 megawatts that are fueled with renewable resources or and for repowering of existing powerplants. The expedited process expired at the end of 2006. The six-month process would be available where there is substantial evidence that a project won't cause a significant impact on the environment or the electrical system and will comply with all applicable standards, ordinances, or laws, the six month process can be used.

Last Action: Withdrawn from Senate Appropriations Committee, re-referred to Senate Rules Committee.

AB 809 (Blakeslee)

Makes several clarifying changes to the definition of eligible small hydroelectric generating facilities for compliance with California's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). Allows incremental increases in electricity generated from existing small and large hydroelectric facilities to count toward the RPS.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 684, Statutes of 2007.

AB 837 (Levine)

Requires each entity that serves or plans to serve electricity to retail customers to provide the California Energy Commission (CEC) with information on the amount of electricity it procures from renewable resources in the previous two years and information on how much electricity from renewable resources the entity owns or has under contract for the next five and ten year periods. This information will be used by the CEC in developing its bi-annual Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR).

Last Action: Amended and re-referred to Assembly Public Safety Committee.

AB 946 (Krekorian)

Expands an existing feed-in-tariff program that allows water companies to sell excess power from a renewable generation facility directly to an electric utility at set price. Also allows wastewater utilities to participate in the program. The California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) expanded this program in 2008 to allow all customers of an electric utility to participate in the program.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 112, Statutes of 2007.

AB 1077 (Lieber)

Establishes a 19-member California Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle Coordinating Council (Council) to coordinate plug-in hybrid electric vehicle-related activities of the state. Establishes a goal to have at a minimum 1,000,000 plug-in hybrid vehicles on California roads by 2015. Requires the Council to consider and recommend certain financial and regulatory incentives to promote the manufacture and sale of plug-in hybrid vehicles. Requires the Council to consider and recommend a multi-fuel approach as well as make recommendations for a public information and education program.

Last Action: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 1109 (Huffman)

Requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to approve a statewide electrical consumption limit for lighting by 2018 that is equivalent to a 50% reduction in consumption for indoor lighting and a 25% reduction in commercial lighting and outdoor lighting from 2007 levels. Require the Department of Toxic Substances Control to prescribe schedules for reducing the levels of mercury and lead in general purpose lights.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 534, Statutes of 2007.

AB 1223 (Arambula)

Expands the agricultural net-metering program and permits agricultural customers who use solar panels or a wind turbines to offset the customer's own electrical needs, to aggregate the electricity usage of properties adjacent or contiguous to the generator that are under the same ownership.

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

AB 1327 (Ma)

Extends the repayment period from 15 years to 30 years for Energy Conservation Assistance Account loans provided to schools, hospitals, public care institutions and local government entities for financing energy conservation related projects.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 1428 (Galgiani)

Includes certain manure-fueled generating facilities in the existing pilot program that permits manure methane and biogas digester electrical generating facilities to offset the electricity the customer/facility uses from the utility with electricity it provides back to the grid. Includes customer-generators who produce electricity generated from poultry and livestock waste to participate in the pilot program that is available to manure methane producers and biogas digesters.

Last Action: Held in Senate Environmental Quality Committee.

AB 1470 (Huffman)

Creates the Solar Hot Water and Efficiency Act of 2007, a \$250 million subsidy program for solar hot water heaters with the goal of promoting the installation of 200,000 solar hot water systems in California by 2017. Requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to use data collected from a pilot project to develop an incentive structures in the Solar Hot Water and Efficiency Act of 2007 and provides that the CPUC cannot implement the program unless it finds that a solar hot water heater program is cost effective for ratepayers.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 536, Statutes of 2007.

AB 1510 (Plescia)

Exempts from the Subdivision Map Act properties for lease or grants of easements for solar electrical generation devices or certain biogas projects, if the projects are subject to discretionary action by the advisory agency or legislative body.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 658, Statutes of 2008.

AB 1532 (Parra)

Requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB), when establishing the low carbon fuel standard pursuant to Executive Order S-01-07, to ensure that the standards do not increase the state's overall dependence on crude oil imports.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Rules Committee.

AB 2176 (Caballero)

Requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to administer funds allocated to the state from the federal Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Energy Act) for cost-effective energy efficiency measures. Provides a vehicle to develop guidelines or state direction to make sure that block grant funds coming from the federal government through the state get to local governments in a timely and efficient manner and can be used for energy efficiency projects in the communities.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 229, Statutes of 2008.

AB 2224 (De La Torre)

Requires the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) to create the California Clean Energy Curriculum and Training Initiative of 2008, to establish standardized curriculum for use at schools and provide assistance to schools that create clean energy training programs.

Last Action: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 2267 (Fuentes)

Requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to give priority to California-based entities in making awards pursuant to the Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) program and provides a 20 percent additional incentive for California suppliers that install eligible distributed generation resources for the Self-Generation Investment Program (SGIP).

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 537, Statutes of 2008.

AB 2269 (Fuentes)

Allows solar energy systems that are receiving ratepayer funded incentives from publicly owned electric utilities to be owned by a third party, installed on a Publicly Owned Utility (POU) customer site, and for the electricity to be sold directly to the publicly owned electric utilities.

Last Action: Vetoed by Governor.

AB 2309 (DeSaulnier)

Requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to determine whether to require electrical corporations to provide in-home owner-requested energy efficiency audits and make recommendations to the owner on cost-effective measures that would decrease the building's energy usage.

Last Action: Vetoed by Governor.

AB 2404 (Salas)

Requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to report to the Legislature by March 31, 2010, the outcome of a pilot project the CPUC established to determine whether cost-effective energy efficiency improvements could be achieved by water conservation projects, and make recommendations as to whether the utilities would or could achieve cost-effective energy efficiency improvements through water conservation programs.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 240, Statutes of 2008.

AB 2432 (Laird)

Expands research categories eligible for funding from the California Energy Commission's (CEC) Public Interest Energy Research, Development and Demonstration Program (PIER) to include the area of climate change mitigation and adaptation, and greenhouse gas emission reduction.

Last Action: Held on the Assembly Concurrence file.

AB 2466 (Laird)

Authorizes a local governmental entity to receive a bill credit against electricity it has consumed from an electric corporation for electricity it supplied to the electric grid from a renewable generating facility.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 540, Statutes of 2008.

AB 2678 (Nuñez)

Requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to establish an ongoing proceeding to develop requirements for time-of-sale energy-efficiency audits for residential and commercial buildings.

Last Action: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 2768 (Levine)

Deletes a requirement that ratepayers who install solar energy systems be on a time-variant pricing tariff.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 541, Statutes of 2008.

AB 2820 (Huffman)

Requires an electrical corporation to use its transmission and distribution facilities to deliver renewable electricity generated by a local public agency to any local public agency.

Last Action: Amended and re-referred to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

AB 2863 (Leno)

Exempts from the definition of an electric corporation an entity that places solar energy systems on a building to meet the demand of that building, the demand of its tenants, or the demand of not more than two other corporations or persons.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 535, Statutes of 2008.

AB 2804 (Hayashi)

Requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), in implementing the California Solar Initiative (CSI), to utilize flexible design and build-out completion requirements for a school building that recognizes the additional requirements that are applicable to the modernization or alteration of a school building.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 542, Statutes of 2008.

AB 2988 (Feuer)

Exempts a public agency from specified California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements when the public agency is approving of a contract to purchase power from a renewable power plant.

Last Action: Held in Senate Rules Committee.

AJR 50 (Fuentes)

Would urge the Congress and the President of the United States enact a multi-year extension of the investment and production tax credits for renewable energy as soon as possible.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

SB 332 (Corbett)

Requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to develop test procedures for a list of appliances and develop new energy efficiency standards and test procedures for those appliances.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 380 (Kehoe)

Modifies a program that allows small-scale renewable generators to sell renewable electricity to an investor-owned utility (IOU) at rate set by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) so any customer of the three largest IOUs may participate in the program.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 544, Statutes of 2008.

SB 410 (Simitian/Perata)

Enacts revised payment and reporting criteria for existing renewable energy facilities in a manner consistent with provisions of SB 107, Chapter 464, Statutes of 2006, which were chaptered out by provisions of SB 1250, Chapter 512, Statutes of 2006, and therefore did not take effect. States the intent of the Legislature to preserve the eligibility of electricity from small hydroelectric generators that is sold to a retail seller within California, including electricity sold to a publicly owned utility (POU), to meet the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).

Last Action: Held on Assembly Inactive file.

SB 411 (Simitian)

Requires all retail sellers of electricity, excluding publicly owned utilities (POUs), to procure at least 33 percent of their electricity from renewable resources by 2020.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 428 (Dutton)

Requires investor-owned utilities to expand the availability of interruptible programs to all customer classes. Requires pricing incentives to be cost-effective and permits incentives to reflect the full range of costs avoided by the demand reductions, including environmental effects.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 539, Statutes of 2007.

SB 451 (Kehoe)

Expands an existing feed-in-tariff program that allows water company to sell excess power from a renewable generation facility directly to an electric utility at set price to instead allow all customers of electric utilities to participate in the program. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) expanded this program in 2008 to allow all customers of Pacific Gas & Electric and Southern California Edison to participate in the program.

Last Action: Vetoed by Governor

SB 463 (Negrete McLeod)

Permits an eligible biogas digester customer-generator (typically large dairies) to sell excess electricity to their electric service provider at a capped price only if the generator has entered into a long-term purchase agreement with the electrical corporation.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

SB 1036 (Perata)

Deletes the authority for the California Energy Commission (CEC) to award supplemental energy payments for the above-market cost of renewable power and instead authorizes the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to allow the investor-owned utilities (IOU) to pay renewable developers for above-market costs as approved by CPUC with a cap on the total amount of above-market costs an investor-owned utility must pay set at a level equal to the maximum supplemental energy payments that would have been allowed for each IOU.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 685, Statutes of 2007.

SB 1399 (Simitian)

Modifies current statutory provisions that prevent property owners from allowing a tree or shrub to cast a shadow on a solar energy system, to provide that in order to make use of these protections a property owner must have installed the solar energy system prior to the planting of the trees or shrubs.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 176, Statutes of 2008.

SB 1460 (Wiggins)

Requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to develop a program to facilitate the deployment of energy efficiency measures and solar energy projects for multi-tenant buildings.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 1512 (Wiggins)

Allows a property owner with multiple electricity meters on their property, to install a solar energy system that is large enough to offset all of the electrical demand for the entire property, under certain conditions.

Last Action: Held in Assembly.

SB 1754 (Kehoe)

Authorizes the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority (Authority) to enter into power purchase agreements with public and private entities for the purchase and sale of alternative source energy or projects.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 543, Statutes of 2008.

SJR 7 (Maldonado)

States California legislative support of legislation in Congress that expresses the sense of Congress that it is the goal of the United States that by 2025 not less than 25 percent of the total energy consumed in United States comes from renewable resources.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 120, Statutes of 2007.

Consumer Protection & Low Income Assistance

AB 690 (Jones)

Prohibits water companies from recovering in rates revenue that exceeds the actual costs of providing service plus a reasonable rate of return on capital investments.

Last Action: Amended and re-referred to Assembly Human Services Committee.

AB 817 (Maze)

Requires each mutual water company to have a supervisory committee responsible for reviewing the mutual water company's policies and control procedures to safeguard against fraud and self-dealing. Permits the supervisory committee to oversee the mutual water company's board of directors and to make or cause to be made an audit of the books and records and an examination of the business and affairs of the mutual water company. Requires the supervisory committee to make a full report of the assets, receipts, and disbursements of the mutual water company to the board of directors, and present those reports at the annual meeting of stockholders or members and filed with the records of the mutual water company.

Last Action: Held in Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee.

AB 887 (De La Torre)

Requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to be consistent with the policies of affordability and conservation when establishing residential rates.

Last Action: Amended and re-referred to Assembly Local Government and Judiciary Committees.

AB 1046 (Leno)

Prohibits the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) from permitting a utility to recover in rates the costs associated with renewing a license for a nuclear power plant, or costs of operating the facility beyond the term of its existing certification, unless the California Energy Commission (CEC) has completed an assessment of the costs of accumulating waste at California's nuclear power plants.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

AB 1234 (Wolk)

Requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to establish a furnace-replacement program for furnaces that are more than 30 years old for low-income households. Declares that it is the policy of the state that old floor furnaces be replaced in all dwellings in California.

Deems a property untenable if it contains an old furnace after January 1, 2014, and requires the CPUC, in consultation with Low-Income Oversight Board and the gas or electrical corporations that participate in the California Alternative Rates for Energy (CARE) program, to provide financial support for replacing all eligible old gas floor furnaces by December 31, 2013, in units occupied by customers eligible for CARE program.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 1310 (Leno)

Streamlines the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regulation and investigation procedures of charter-party carriers, (limousine-for-hire or passenger charter services). Requires the CPUC to investigate any business upon receipt of a complaint from a consumer or interested party or upon the request of a peace officer or transportation inspector. The complaint must contain sufficient information to warrant conducting an investigation and the CPUC is to determine the type of information that is deemed sufficient.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 701, Statutes of 2007.

AB 1517 (Jones)

Requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on an annual basis, to determine the amount of state and federal income taxes actually paid to the respective taxing authority by each electrical corporation, gas corporation, and water corporation, and report that information to the Legislature and the Department of Finance. The annual report is required to include all electrical, gas, or water corporations' and affiliates' reported taxable income, actual income taxes paid, and the amount for income tax the CPUC authorized the public utility to recover in rates for the same fiscal year as the most recent tax filings. The CPUC could permit utilities to recover in rates only those expenses for income taxes actually paid to state and federal taxing authorities with some exceptions.

Last Action: Amended and re-referred to Committee on Business and Professions.

AB 1552 (Feuer)

Permits the Board of Equalization (BOE), the California Energy Commission (CEC), and the Attorney General to have access to financial and operations information about refiners and major marketers of petroleum products under specified circumstances. Authorizes the CEC to collect from specified persons in the marine transportation industry information pertaining to congestion at marine petroleum terminal facilities within the state. Authorizes the CEC to disclose specified confidential information to the Attorney General if the Attorney General provides a written request in connection with an ongoing investigation.

Last Action: Held in Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 2511 (Salas)

Prohibits a public utility from authorizing a deferred-deposit lender (also known as pay-day lenders) to be a payment location for utility bills, unless the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) finds that the utility has been unable to locate alternative authorized payment locations with comparable service and convenience.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

AB 2857 (Lieber)

Prohibits the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) from denying eligibility for the California Alternative Rates for Energy (CARE) program for a submetered resident or tenant of a master-metered mobile home park on the basis that some units in the complex do not use a submetered structure to obtain and pay for their gas or electric service.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 536, Statutes of 2008.

AJR 3 (Dymally)

Would memorialize the President and the Congress to increase the federal budget authorization for the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to \$7,000,000,000 for the 2007-08 fiscal year, and appropriate that entire amount for distribution to the states.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

Natural Gas**SB 412 (Simitian)**

Requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to conduct a liquefied natural gas (LNG) needs assessment study to be completed by November 1, 2008. Requires the study to include a finding as to whether natural gas supplies can meet projected demand without importing LNG, and precludes the Governor, or a state or local entity from approving the construction or operation of a LNG facility until the report is issued, or until November 1, 2008, whichever comes first.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 1700 (Steinberg)

Requires a gas corporation that commences operation of an underground natural gas storage facility after January 1, 2009, that is located in an urban area under residential properties to be strictly liable for any damages to persons or property resulting from the operation of the facility.

Last Action: Vetoed by Governor.

Communications

AB 231 (Eng)

Makes clarifying changes to the definition of what types of telephone services are assessed fees to fund the Emergency Telephone Users Surcharge Account (ETUSA). The ETUSA is used to fund the state's emergency 911 system. The changes conform the statute to existing Board of Equalization (BOE) practices and are intended to include telephone services using Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technologies.

Last Action: Held on Senate inactive file.

AB 826 (Levine)

Creates specific customer disclosure requirements regarding the availability of basic telephone services that telephone corporations must provide new customers marketing services to new or current customers.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 942 (Krekorian)

Requires actions be taken to ensure that "enhanced" 911(E911) is functional across the state by June 30, 2008.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 891 (De La Torre)

Requires telephone corporations to disclose to customers key rates, terms, and conditions of a service contract

Last Action: Held on Senate Inactive file.

AB 918 (Torrico)

Exempts telephone corporations that are not regulated under a rate-of-return regulatory structure from provisions in law that require the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to approve new issuances of stock and security certificates. The CPUC can still require prior approval of stock transactions if the CPUC first finds the prior approval requirement is in the public interest. In 2008 the telephone companies that are not subject to rate-of-return regulations were AT&T, Verizon, SureWest, and Frontier.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 239, Statutes of 2007.

AB 1715 (Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee)

Makes technical, non-substantive, clarifying, and conforming changes to the Digital Infrastructure and Video Competition Act (DIVCA), which created a state-issued franchise process for video services in California.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 123, Statutes of 2007.

AB 1977 (Benoit)

Clarifies the procedure by which public safety agencies can obtain customer information from telecommunications corporations.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Judiciary Committee.

AB 2192 (Levine)

States legislative intent to update the Moore Universal Telephone Service Act in order to preserve its universal service goals as communications service technologies expand.

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

AB 2232 (De La Torre)

States legislative intent that the well-being of employees of video service providers be promoted. Requires that a background check be conducted for all individuals entering a home of a customer of a state video franchise holder on behalf of the franchise holder.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 195, Statutes of 2008.

AB 2307 (Price)

Allows telephone subscribers to verify their decision to change residential telephone service either through an independent third party verification or by use of electronic signature or electronic authorization that is consistent with federal regulations.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 162, Statutes of 2008.

AB 2385 (Ruskin)

Prohibits an entity that is not a telephone corporation from releasing to the public telephone numbers of mobile telephone subscribers without first obtaining the expressed written consent of the subscriber.

Last Action: Held in Senate Judiciary Committee.

AB 2885 (De La Torre)

Requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to adopt rules to protect consumers of prepaid calling cards from undisclosed charges.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 745, Statutes of 2008.

AB 3011 (Huffman)

Clarifies that current privacy protections in place for telephone customers, also apply to mobile telephone providers.

Last Action: Held on Assembly Floor.

SB 158 (Florez)

Requires cellular telephone providers, upon request, to remove or deactivate any device in a handset that prevents the subscriber from using that handset with a different cellular telephone provider.

Last Action: Amended and re-referred to Assembly Health Committee.

SB 323 (Kehoe)

Would require the commission, by January 1, 2009, and by January 1 of each year through 2013, to report to the Legislature on the availability of two-way broadband telecommunications access in the state.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

SB 324 (Migden)

Expands the list of housing projects and ratepayers that will be eligible for the 10 percent of California Solar Initiative (CSI) funds that must be set aside for low-income housing projects. The expanded list includes residential housing that is wholly occupied by individuals enrolled in the California Alternative Rates for Energy (CARE) program, the Low-Income Energy Efficiency (LIEE) program, or the Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) Program.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

SB 780 (Wiggins)

Extends the sunset dates on the California High Cost Fund A and B programs (CHCF) to 2011. The CHCF programs subsidize to provision of telephone service to areas of that state that are more expensive to serve, generally due to the remoteness of the region.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 342, Statutes of 2008.

SB 1144 (Cox)

Extended the sunset dates on the California High Cost Fund (CHCF)A program.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 1149 (Wiggins)

Extends the sunset date on a program that subsidizes the deployment of telephone service in areas of the state not currently served by local exchange carrier.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 388, Statutes of 2008.

SB 1193 (Padilla)

Creates the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) to fund up to 40 percent of the costs of deploying broadband internet facilities to unserved and under-served areas of the state.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 393, Statutes of 2008.

SB 1437 (Padilla)

Recognizes the California Virtual Campus (CVC) within the California Community Colleges (CCC), and allows CCC to be eligible to apply for 50-percent discounts on telecommunications services funded by the California Teleconnect Fund (CTF) program. The CVC is an intersegmental effort to establish and maintain a catalog of online courses and to help faculty convert traditional courses into an online format. The CTF discount will applied toward the implementation of the CVC.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 718, Statutes of 2008.

SJR 15 (Florez)

Would urge the Congress and the President to enact the Truth in Caller ID Act of 2007, with amendments to authorize states to enact and enforce identical, or more strict, legislation to protect persons from caller identification spoofing, which is the transmission of false identifying information so that a false telephone number or identifying information is displayed to the person receiving the call.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

Railroad Safety & Regulation

AB 2195 (Brownley)

Permits the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to approve a public transit guide way, or otherwise carry out its regulatory and oversight duties without a public hearing.

Last Action: Held on Assembly Inactive file.

Regulatory

AB 533 (Galgiani)

Prohibit the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) from imposing a cost responsibility surcharge on a customer of a local publicly owned electric utility if the customer's service location has not previously received service from an electrical corporation and if the customer's service location is within the service territory of an irrigation district meeting certain requirements.

Last Action: *Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.*

AB 1610 (Nuñez)

Establishes the California Petroleum Refinery Facilities Standards Board (Board) and grants the Board, in conjunction with the air pollution control and air quality management districts, with the authority to require reports from oil refineries regarding refinery shutdowns and to inspect refinery books and records as they relate to refinery downtime.

Last Action: Held on the Senate Floor.

AB 1763 (Blakeslee)

Requires each electrical and gas corporation to disclose and itemize the charges for each rate block (tier) on residential customers' billing statements and provide information on how the customer can reduce energy usage.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 551, Statutes of 2008.

AB 2578 (Lieu)

Enhances the ability of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to collect fines and restitution from individuals who engaged in fraudulent activities that are regulated by the CPUC.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 552, Statutes of 2008.

AB 2985 (Duvall)

Transfers the responsibility for registering interstate carriers of household goods and charter-party carriers from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and deletes the requirement that carriers renew every three years.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Rules Committee.

AB 3058 (Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee)

Requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to review any modification or renegotiation of a power purchase agreement entered into by Department of Water Resources (DWR) to determine if the modified contract is just and reasonable.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 693, Statutes of 2008.

SB 1491 (McClintock)

Prohibits the Building Standards Commission (BSC) from adopting or approving any building standard that requires the installation of any device that may be controlled remotely by any person or entity other than the utility customer unless certain conditions apply, and prohibits any electric utility from operating a remote controlled device without prior consent of the subscriber.

Last Action: Held in the Senate.

Administrative

AB 873 (Davis)

Requires large water companies to submit annual plans for increasing women, minority, and disabled veteran business enterprise procurement, consistent with other California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regulated utilities.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 316, Statutes of 2008.

AB 1157 (Ruskin)

Requires the president of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to be elected by the members of CPUC, rather than be appointed by the Governor. Allows labor organizations, environmental organizations, and local governments that are representing their residents to receive intervenor fees for participation in CPUC proceedings.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 1647 (De La Torre)

Require the commission to open a rulemaking or other appropriate proceeding and, in consultation with local entities, to adopt customer service standards for video service providers that ensure capable and responsive customer service.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

AB 1714 (Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee)

When heard by the Assembly Utilities and Commerce committee, AB 1714 was a technical code clean-up bill and made several uncontroversial amendments to the Public Utilities Code. This bill was later amended and authorizes the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to delay a requirement that time variant electricity pricing be used for solar energy customers. This allows residential solar customers the option of using either time-of-use rates or flat rates.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 11, Statutes of 2007.

AB 1716 (Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee)

Committee code clean up bill. Codifies existing practices and permits the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) that permit the CPUC to use an account process that simplifies that calculations of state funds schools are entitled to receive to offset the costs of Internet services.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 70, Statutes of 2007.

AB 1973 (Ruskin)

Requires Senate confirmation of the Governor-appointed president of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Makes changes to the governance of the CPUC by permitting the CPUC to direct the executive director and attorney, instead of the president. Repeals the CPUC exemption to the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) and requires every quasi-legislative CPUC proceeding to be subject to the APA.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

AB 3048 (Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee)

Makes minor technical changes to clarify code to provide conformity in the Public Utilities Code, and utility, "electric service provider," "eligible renewable energy resources," "renewables portfolio standard," and "solar energy systems;" eliminates references to the Public Utilities Holding Company Act (PUHCA), which was repealed by the federal Energy Act of 2005; and requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to publish a specific report on the costs included in rates on its website.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 558, Statutes of 2008.

ACR 12 (Parra)

Requests the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to cooperate with the state's public utilities in immediately approving advice filings to establish appropriate payment deferral programs for citrus *and other affected* growers whose crops were destroyed as a result of the cold storms and consequent frost damage that occurred in January 2007.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

SB 312 (Kehoe)

Requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to post on its Internet web site all documents, testimony, or other materials filed with the CPUC in any rate-setting or quasi-legislative proceedings, and each tariff filed by a public utility and approved by the CPUC for utilities that exceed \$10 million in annual revenues.

Last Action: Vetoed by Governor.

SB 1040 (Kehoe)

Provides for a surcharge to be imposed on amounts paid by every person in California for Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service that provides access to the 911 emergency system by any service user in this state beginning January 1, 2009.

Last Action: Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 17, Statutes of 2008.

SB 1383 (Fuller)

Permits the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to enter into contracts and agreements to buy and sell electricity and natural gas, and engage in other financial instruments, and excludes those contracts from terms and provisions specified in the Public Contract Code.

Last Action: Held in Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

SB 1762 (Perata)

Creates the Climate Change Research and Workforce Development Institute (CCRWI) at the University of California funded by a redirection of existing funding from the Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) Program and additional fees on electric service provided by investor-owned utilities and municipal utilities. The prime goal of the CCRWI is to identify and support research, education and workforce training projects through grants to CA universities and national labs to reduce or mitigate green house gas (GHG) emissions.

Last Action: Vetoed by the Governor.