

**Introduced by Senator De León**

February 22, 2013

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An act to amend Section 739.8 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to water corporations.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 805, as introduced, De León. Water corporations: low-income rate relief programs.

Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission has regulatory authority over public utilities, including water corporations, as defined, and authorizes the commission to fix the rates and charges for every public utility, and requires that those rates and charges be just and reasonable. Existing law requires the Public Utilities Commission to consider, and authorizes the commission to implement, programs to provide rate relief for low-income ratepayers of a water corporation and to provide appropriate incentives and capabilities to achieve water conservation goals.

This bill would make a technical, nonsubstantive change in these provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 739.8 of the Public Utilities Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 739.8. (a) Access to an adequate supply of healthful water is
- 4 a basic necessity of human life, and shall be made available to all
- 5 residents of ~~California~~ *the state* at an affordable cost.

1 (b) The commission shall consider and may implement programs  
2 to provide rate relief for low-income ratepayers.

3 (c) The commission shall consider and may implement programs  
4 to assist low-income ratepayers in order to provide appropriate  
5 incentives and capabilities to achieve water conservation goals.

6 (d) In establishing the feasibility of rate relief and conservation  
7 incentives for low-income ratepayers, the commission may take  
8 into account variations in water needs caused by geography, climate  
9 and the ability of communities to support these programs.