

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 4, 2014

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 21, 2014

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 2, 2014

SENATE BILL

No. 1409

Introduced by Senator Hill

February 21, 2014

An act to amend Section 321.6 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to the Public Utilities Commission.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1409, as amended, Hill. Public Utilities Commission: safety investigations.

The California Constitution establishes the Public Utilities Commission with regulatory authority over public utilities and authorizes the commission to establish its own procedures, subject to statutory limitations or directions and constitutional requirements of due process. Existing law requires the commission to submit certain information about its activities to the Governor and the Legislature no later than February 1 of each year, including a workplan describing its scheduled ratemaking proceedings, an accounting of its transactions and proceedings, and a report on the number of cases where resolution of the case exceeded the time periods prescribed in scoping memos and on the number of days that commissioners presided in hearings.

This bill, with respect to this annual submission of information, would also require the commission to provide a succinct description of each *open staff* safety investigation ~~pending before the commission or~~ *and each staff safety investigation* concluded during the prior calendar ~~year~~ *by the commission*, year, including *the date of the safety incident*, the

reason for the investigation, the facility type involved, and the owner of the facility.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 321.6 of the Public Utilities Code is
2 amended to read:

3 321.6. (a) The commission shall do all of the following:

4 (1) Develop, publish, and annually update an annual work plan
5 that describes in clear detail the scheduled ratemaking proceedings
6 and other decisions that may be considered by the commission
7 during the calendar year. The plan shall include, but is not limited
8 to, information on how members of the public and ratepayers can
9 gain access to the commission’s ratemaking process and
10 information regarding the specific matters to be decided. The plan
11 shall also include information on the operation of the office of the
12 public adviser and identify the names and telephone numbers of
13 those contact persons responsible for specific cases and matters
14 to be decided. The plan shall also include a statement that specifies
15 activities that the commission proposes to reduce the costs of, and
16 rates for, energy, including electricity, and for improving the
17 competitive opportunities for state agriculture and other rural
18 energy consumers. The commission shall post the plan under the
19 official documents area of its Internet Web site and shall develop
20 a program to disseminate the information in the plan utilizing
21 computer mailing lists to provide regular updates on the
22 information to those members of the public and organizations
23 which request that information.

24 (2) Produce a complete accounting of its transactions and
25 proceedings for the preceding year, together with other facts,
26 suggestions, and recommendations that it deems of value to the
27 people of the state and a statement that specifies the activities and
28 achievements of the commission in reducing the costs of, and rates
29 for, energy, including electricity, for state agriculture and other
30 rural energy consumers.

31 (3) Create a report on the number of cases where resolution
32 exceeded the time periods prescribed in scoping memos and the
33 days that commissioners presided in hearings.

1 (4) Describe succinctly in a report each *open staff* safety
2 investigation ~~pending before the commission or and each staff~~
3 *safety investigation* concluded during the prior calendar year ~~by~~
4 ~~the commission.~~ *year*. The *categories within the* description shall
5 include *the date of the safety incident*, the reason for the
6 investigation, the facility type involved, and the owner of the
7 facility.

8 (5) Submit annually the work plan, accounting, and reports
9 required by paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) to the Governor and
10 Legislature no later than February 1 of each year.

11 (b) The president of the commission shall annually appear before
12 the appropriate policy committees of the Senate and Assembly to
13 report on the annual work plan access guide of the commission
14 required pursuant to this section.

15 (c) The president of the commission shall annually appear before
16 the appropriate policy committees of the Senate and Assembly to
17 report on the annual report of the commission on the number of
18 cases where resolution exceeded the time periods prescribed in
19 scoping memos and the days that commissioners presided in
20 hearings, pursuant to Section 13 of Chapter 856 of the Statutes of
21 1996.