

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1008

Introduced by Assembly Member Quirk

February 26, 2015

An act to amend Section 216 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to public utilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1008, as introduced, Quirk. Public utilities: sale of hydrogen to public as a motor vehicle fuel.

The Public Utilities Act provides that whenever any common carrier, toll bridge corporation, pipeline corporation, gas corporation, electrical corporation, telephone corporation, telegraph corporation, water corporation, sewer system corporation, or heat corporation that performs a service for, or delivers a commodity to, the public or any portion of the public for which any compensation or payment is received, that entity is a public utility subject to the jurisdiction, control, and regulation of the Public Utilities Commission and the provisions of the act. The act provides that the ownership or operation of a facility that sells compressed natural gas at retail to the public for use only as a motor vehicle fuel, and the selling of compressed natural gas at retail from that facility to the public for use only as a motor vehicle fuel, does not make the corporation or person a public utility solely because of that ownership, operation, or sale.

This bill would additionally provide that the ownership or operation of a facility that sells hydrogen at retail to the public for use only as a motor vehicle fuel, and the selling of hydrogen at retail from that facility to the public for use only as a motor vehicle fuel, does not make the

corporation or person a public utility solely because of that ownership, operation, or sale.

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 216 of the Public Utilities Code is
2 amended to read:

3 216. (a) "Public utility" includes every common carrier, toll
4 bridge corporation, pipeline corporation, gas corporation, electrical
5 corporation, telephone corporation, telegraph corporation, water
6 corporation, sewer system corporation, and heat corporation, where
7 the service is performed for, or the commodity is delivered to, the
8 public or any portion thereof.

9 (b) Whenever any common carrier, toll bridge corporation,
10 pipeline corporation, gas corporation, electrical corporation,
11 telephone corporation, telegraph corporation, water corporation,
12 sewer system corporation, or heat corporation performs a service
13 for, or delivers a commodity to, the public or any portion thereof
14 for which any compensation or payment whatsoever is received,
15 that common carrier, toll bridge corporation, pipeline corporation,
16 gas corporation, electrical corporation, telephone corporation,
17 telegraph corporation, water corporation, sewer system corporation,
18 or heat corporation, is a public utility subject to the jurisdiction,
19 control, and regulation of the commission and the provisions of
20 this part.

21 (c) When any person or corporation performs any service for,
22 or delivers any commodity to, any person, private corporation,
23 municipality, or other political subdivision of the state, that in turn
24 either directly or indirectly, mediately or immediately, performs
25 that service for, or delivers that commodity to, the public or any
26 portion thereof, that person or corporation is a public utility subject
27 to the jurisdiction, control, and regulation of the commission and
28 the provisions of this part.

29 (d) Ownership or operation of a facility that employs
30 cogeneration technology or produces power from other than a
31 conventional power source or the ownership or operation of a
32 facility which employs landfill gas technology does not make a

1 corporation or person a public utility within the meaning of this
2 section solely because of the ownership or operation of that facility.

3 (e) Any corporation or person engaged directly or indirectly in
4 developing, producing, transmitting, distributing, delivering, or
5 selling any form of heat derived from geothermal or solar resources
6 or from cogeneration technology to any privately owned or publicly
7 owned public utility, or to the public or any portion thereof, is not
8 a public utility within the meaning of this section solely by reason
9 of engaging in any of those activities.

10 (f) The ownership or operation of a facility that sells compressed
11 natural gas *or hydrogen* at retail to the public for use only as a
12 motor vehicle fuel, and the selling of compressed natural gas *or*
13 *hydrogen* at retail from that facility to the public for use only as a
14 motor vehicle fuel, does not make the corporation or person a
15 public utility within the meaning of this section solely because of
16 that ownership, operation, or sale.

17 (g) Ownership or operation of a facility that is an exempt
18 wholesale generator, as defined in the Public Utility Holding
19 Company Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 16451(6)), does not make
20 a corporation or person a public utility within the meaning of this
21 section, solely due to the ownership or operation of that facility.

22 (h) The ownership, control, operation, or management of an
23 electric plant used for direct transactions or participation directly
24 or indirectly in direct transactions, as permitted by subdivision (b)
25 of Section 365, sales into a market established and operated by the
26 Independent System Operator or any other wholesale electricity
27 market, or the use or sale as permitted under subdivisions (b) to
28 (d), inclusive, of Section 218, shall not make a corporation or
29 person a public utility within the meaning of this section solely
30 because of that ownership, participation, or sale.

31 (i) The ownership, control, operation, or management of a
32 facility that supplies electricity to the public only for use to charge
33 light duty plug-in electric vehicles does not make the corporation
34 or person a public utility within the meaning of this section solely
35 because of that ownership, control, operation, or management. For
36 purposes of this subdivision, “light duty plug-in electric vehicles”
37 includes light duty battery electric and plug-in hybrid electric

1 vehicles. This subdivision does not affect the commission's
2 authority under Section 454 or 740.2 or any other applicable statute.

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