

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 21, 1998

SENATE BILL

No. 2150

Introduced by Senator Peace

February 20, 1998

An act to add Section 709.6 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to public utilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 2150, as amended, Peace. Public Utilities: telecommunications.

Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission is vested with regulatory authority over public utilities. Existing law also sets forth legislative findings and declarations regarding telecommunications policies for California.

This bill would set forth additional legislative findings and declarations regarding these telecommunications policies and would require the commission, not later than January 1, 2000, to commence a proceeding to consider whether ~~it is~~ appropriate to establish a new regulatory framework, as prescribed.

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. The Legislature finds and declares all of
- 2 the following:
- 3 (a) The Congress of the United States has enacted the
- 4 Telecommunications Act of 1996 to provide for a

1 procompetitive national policy framework designed to
2 accelerate private sector deployment of advanced
3 telecommunications and information technologies and
4 service to all Americans.

5 (b) The California Legislature also has enacted
6 procompetitive policies that have placed this state at the
7 forefront in promoting competition in the provision of
8 telecommunications services.

9 (c) The dramatic changes in the communications
10 industry demand similar changes in the regulatory
11 scheme if California consumers are to enjoy the choice,
12 pricing, simplicity, and other benefits of genuine
13 competition.

14 SEC. 2. Section 709.6 is added to the Public Utilities
15 Code, to read:

16 709.6. Not later than January 1, 2000, the commission
17 shall commence a proceeding to consider whether ~~it is~~
18 ~~appropriate~~ to establish a new regulatory framework that
19 does all of the following:

20 (a) Ensures that the public has universally available
21 access to basic local exchange service.

22 (b) Applies *appropriate* rules ~~equally~~ to all
23 telecommunications service providers.

24 (c) Encourages the provision of advanced, high-speed
25 digital telecommunications services to the public.

