

9-1-1 Advisory Board Meeting- State/Federal Legislative
Update 2-23-2022

[2022 State Telecommunications Bills](#)

[AB 2538](#) ([Rivas, Robert](#) D) **State Warning Center: wildfire smoke notification.**

Status: 2/18/2022-From printer. May be heard in committee March 20.

Summary:

Would require the Office of Emergency Services to expand its California State Warning Center to include targeted alerts for public health dangers, including smoke from wildfires. The bill would require the office to create a state notification system that sends text and voice messages, in multiple languages, to residents and farmworkers based on their ZIP Codes to alert them of public health dangers in their area.

[AB 2751](#) ([Garcia, Eduardo](#) D) **Affordable Internet and Net Equality Act of 2022.**

Status: 2/18/2022-Introduced. To print.

Summary:

The Public Utilities Commission has regulatory authority over public utilities, including telephone corporations. Pursuant to its existing authority, the commission supervises administration of the state's telecommunications universal service programs, including programs financed through the California Teleconnect Fund Administrative Committee Fund and California Advanced Services Fund, which provide high-quality advanced communication services, also known as broadband services. This bill, the Affordable Internet and Net Equality Act of 2022, would require the commission, in coordination with the Department of Technology and the Department of General Services, to develop and establish the Net Equality Program. The bill would require the state and state agencies to only do business with an internet service provider offering affordable home internet service to households participating in certain public assistance programs, as specified.

[SB 857](#) ([Hueso](#) D) **Telecommunications: universal service programs.**

Status: 2/7/2022-In Senate Energy, Utilities, & Communications Committee. (Ayes 31. Noes 6.)

Summary:

Current law authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to supervise and regulate every public utility in the state, including telephone corporations, and to fix just and reasonable rates and charges for public utilities. Current law establishes the

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state's 6 universal service funds in the State Treasury, including the California High-Cost Fund-A Administrative Committee Fund and the California High-Cost Fund-B Administrative Committee Fund, and provides that moneys in each of the state's universal service funds are the proceeds of rates and are held in trust for the benefit of ratepayers and to compensate telephone corporations for their costs of providing universal service. Moneys in the funds may only be expended to accomplish specified telecommunications universal service programs, upon appropriation in the annual Budget Act or upon supplemental appropriation.

Current law, until January 1, 2023, requires the commission to develop, implement, and maintain a suitable program to establish a fair and equitable local rate structure aided by universal service rate support to small independent telephone corporations that serve rural areas and are subject to rate-of-return regulation by the commission (the CHCF-A program). Existing law, until January 1, 2023, requires the commission to develop, implement, and maintain a suitable, competitively neutral, and broad-based program to establish a fair and equitable local rate support structure aided by universal service rate support to telephone corporations serving areas where the cost of providing services exceeds rates charged by providers, as determined by the commission (the CHCF-B program). This bill would extend the CHCF-A program and CHCF-B program requirements to January 1, 2028.

AB 988 (Bauer-Kahan D) Mental health: mobile crisis support teams: 988 crisis hotline.

Status: (Last location was Senate Energy, Utilities, & Communications Committee on 6/24/2021) (May be acted upon in 2022)

Summary:

Current law, the Warren-911-Emergency Assistance Act, requires every local public agency, as defined, to have an emergency communication system and requires the digits "911" to be the primary emergency telephone number within the system. Current federal law, the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act, designates the 3-digit telephone number "988" as the universal number within the United States for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system operating through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline maintained by the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Abuse and the Veterans Crisis Line maintained by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. This bill would require 988 centers, as defined, to, by July 16, 2022, provide a person experiencing a behavioral health crisis access to a trained counselor by call and, by January 1, 2027, provide access to a trained counselor by call, text, and chat.

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AB 1100 (Aguilar-Curry D) Communications service: emergencies and disasters: reports.

Status: (Last location was Senate Appropriations Suspense File on 8/16/2021)
(May be acted upon in 2022)

Summary:

Would, following a fire- or disaster-related state of emergency or a local emergency declared by the Governor, require the Public Utilities Commission to collect specified information from telecommunications service providers relating to the provider's efforts to repair or replace communications infrastructure that was damaged as a result of the emergency or disaster. The bill would require that the information collected from telecommunications service providers by the commission be broken down by each emergency or disaster and be submitted in a report by the commission to the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature, and posted in a conspicuous area on the commission's internet website.

AB 1565 (Committee on Emergency Management) California Emergency Services Act: toll-free telephone hotlines.

Status: (Last location was Senate Governmental Organization on 6/30/2021)
(May be acted upon in 2022)

Summary:

Current law requires the Office of Emergency Services to investigate the feasibility of establishing a toll-free 800 telephone hotline, which would be accessible to the public, including deaf, hearing impaired, and non-English speaking persons, for use during nonemergency and emergency periods to respond to inquiries about emergency preparedness and disaster status. This bill would authorize the office to investigate the feasibility of establishing more than one toll-free 800 telephone hotline, and consider the lessons learned and best practices of local governments and other states that established hotlines during the COVID-19 pandemic and other major disasters.

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[117th Congress – Federal Telecommunications Bills](#)

HR 1250 Emergency Reporting Act (Rep. Matsui, Doris)

This bill requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to report on certain activations of the Disaster Information Reporting System (the system through which communications providers report their operational status during times of crisis) and to adopt specified rules related to network outage reporting.

If the system was activated for at least seven days, the FCC must issue a preliminary a report that includes (1) the number and duration of any service outages, (2) the approximate number of users or the amount of infrastructure potentially affected by a service outage, and (3) the number and duration of any outages at public safety answering points (PSAPs) that prevent the PSAPs from receiving and routing emergency calls to emergency service personnel. The FCC must also hold at least one public field hearing in the area affected by the event, and it must issue a final report that includes recommendations on how to improve the resiliency of affected communications or networks recovery efforts.

The FCC must also determine the circumstances under which it shall require certain service providers to notify a PSAP of a communications service disruption that prevents the origination of 9–1–1 calls or the delivery of information that allows the PSAP to identify the number of or locate a 9–1–1 caller. Further, the FCC must require this notification to be made and specify the appropriate timing of the notification.

Location: Senate - 07/21/2021 Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HR 1848 (Rep. Pallone)

This bill would rebuild and modernize the Nation's infrastructure to expand access to broadband and Next Generation 9-1-1, rehabilitate drinking water infrastructure, modernize the electric grid and energy supply infrastructure,

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redevelop brownfields, strengthen health care infrastructure, create jobs, and protect public health and the environment, and for other purposes.

Location - House - 01/20/2022 Referred to the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States

HR 1859 (Rep. Smith, Adam)

This bill would authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, to award grants to States, territories, political subdivisions of States and territories, Tribal governments, and consortia of Tribal governments to establish an unarmed 911 response program, and for other purposes.

Location: House – 03/12/2021 Referred to the Subcommittee on Health

S 466 Kelsey Smith Act (Sen. Moran)

This bill requires a mobile or internet voice service provider to disclose the location information of a device pursuant to certain requests.

Specifically, a provider must disclose this information at the request of an investigative or law enforcement officer (or public safety employee or agent on behalf of such officer) if the officer asserts (1) that the device was used to place a 911 call, or (2) reasonable suspicion that the device is in the possession of an individual who is in an emergency situation.

Location: House -- 02/25/2021 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

1175 911 SAVES Act (Sen. Burr)

To categorize public safety telecommunicators as a protective service occupation under the Standard Occupational Classification System.

Location: Senate -- 04/15/2021 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Introduced.