

Introduced by Senator Durazo

February 21, 2025

An act to amend Section 871.5 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to communications.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 716, as introduced, Durazo. Communications: universal service.

Existing law, the Moore Universal Telephone Service Act, establishes the Universal Lifeline Telephone Service program to provide low-income households with access to affordable basic residential telephone service. The act makes legislative findings and declarations regarding lifeline telephone service, including that every means should be employed by the Public Utilities Commission and telephone corporations to ensure that every household qualified to receive lifeline telephone service is informed of, and is afforded the opportunity to subscribe to, that service.

This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to those findings and declarations.

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 871.5 of the Public Utilities Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 871.5. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:
- 4 (a) The offering of high-quality basic telephone service at
- 5 affordable rates to the greatest number of citizens has been a
- 6 longstanding goal of the state.

1 (b) The Moore Universal Telephone Service Act has been, and
2 continues to be, an important means for achieving universal service
3 by making basic telephone service affordable to low-income
4 households through the creation of a lifeline class of service.

5 (c) Every means should be employed by the commission and
6 telephone corporations to ensure that every household qualified
7 to receive lifeline telephone service is informed~~ed~~ *of*, and is
8 afforded the opportunity to subscribe~~to~~ *to*, that service.

9 (d) The furnishing of lifeline telephone service is in the public
10 interest and should be supported fairly and equitably by every
11 telephone corporation, and the commission, in administering the
12 lifeline telephone service program, should implement the program
13 in a way that is equitable, nondiscriminatory, and without
14 competitive consequences for the telecommunications industry in
15 California.