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AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 142

Amendment 1

In line 1 of the title, strike out "relating to energy" and insert:

to amend Section 739.1 of, and to repeal and add Section 739.9 of, the Public Utilities Code, relating to electricity

Amendment 2

On page 1, before line 1, insert:

SECTION 1. Section 739.1 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:
739.1. (a) As used in this section, the following terms have the following

meanings:

(1) "Baseline quantity" has the same meaning as defined in Section 739.

(2) "California Solar Initiative" means the program providing ratepayer funded incentives for eligible solar energy systems adopted by the commission in Decision 05-12-044 and Decision 06-01-024, as modified by Article 1 (commencing with Section 2851) of Chapter 9 of Part 2 and Chapter 8.8 (commencing with Section 25780) of Division 15 of the Public Resources Code.

~~(3) "CalWORKs program" means the program established pursuant to the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids Act (Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11200) of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code).~~~~(4)~~

(3) "Public goods charge" means the nonbypassable separate rate component imposed pursuant to Article 7 (commencing with Section 381) of Chapter 2.3 and the nonbypassable system benefits charge imposed pursuant to the Reliable Electric Service Investments Act (Article 15 (commencing with Section 399) of Chapter 2.3).

(b) (1) The commission shall establish a program of assistance to low-income electric and gas customers with annual household incomes that are no greater than 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline levels, the cost of which shall not be borne solely by any single class of customer. The program shall be referred to as the California Alternate Rates for Energy or CARE program. The commission shall ensure that the level of discount for low-income electric and gas customers correctly reflects the level of need.

(2) The commission may, subject to the limitation in paragraph (4), increase the rates in effect for CARE program participants for electricity usage up to 130 percent of baseline quantities by the annual percentage increase in benefits under the CalWORKs program as authorized by the Legislature for the fiscal year in which the rate increase would take effect, but not to exceed 3 percent per year.

(3) Beginning January 1, 2019, the commission may, subject to the limitation in paragraph (4), establish rates for CARE program participants pursuant to this section and Sections 739 and 739.9, subject to both of the following:



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(A) The requirements of subdivision (b) of Section 382 that the commission ensure that low-income ratepayers are not jeopardized or overburdened by monthly energy expenditures.

(B) The requirement that the level of the discount for low-income electricity and gas ratepayers correctly reflects the level of need as determined by the needs assessment conducted pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 382.

(4) Tier 1, tier 2, and tier 3 CARE rates shall not exceed 80 percent of the corresponding tier 1, tier 2, and tier 3 rates charged to residential customers not participating in the CARE program, excluding any Department of Water Resources bond charge imposed pursuant to Division 27 (commencing with Section 80000) of the Water Code, the CARE surcharge portion of the public goods charge, any charge imposed pursuant to the California Solar Initiative, and any charge imposed to fund any other program that exempts CARE participants from paying the charge.

(5) Rates charged to CARE program participants shall not have more than three tiers. An electrical corporation that does not have a tier 3 CARE rate may introduce a tier 3 CARE rate that, in order to moderate the impact on program participants ~~whose usage exceeds 130 percent of baseline quantities~~, shall be phased in to 80 percent of the corresponding rates charged to residential customers not participating in the CARE program, excluding any Department of Water Resources bond charge imposed pursuant to Division 27 (commencing with Section 80000) of the Water Code, the CARE surcharge portion of the public goods charge, any charge imposed pursuant to the California Solar Initiative, and any other charge imposed to fund a program that exempts CARE participants from paying the charge. For an electrical corporation that does not have a tier 3 CARE rate that introduces a tier 3 CARE rate, the initial rate shall be no more than 150 percent of the CARE baseline rate. Any additional revenues collected by an electrical corporation resulting from the adoption of a tier 3 CARE rate shall, until the utility's next periodic general rate case review of cost allocation and rate design, be credited to reduce rates of residential ratepayers not participating in the CARE program ~~with usage above 130 percent of baseline quantities~~.

(c) The commission shall work with the ~~public utility electrical corporations~~ and gas corporations to establish penetration goals. The commission shall authorize recovery of all administrative costs associated with the implementation of the CARE program that the commission determines to be reasonable, through a balancing account mechanism. Administrative costs shall include, but are not limited to, outreach, marketing, regulatory compliance, certification and verification, billing, measurement and evaluation, and capital improvements and upgrades to communications and processing equipment.

(d) The commission shall examine methods to improve CARE enrollment and participation. This examination shall include, but need not be limited to, comparing information from CARE and the Universal Lifeline Telephone Service (ULTS) to determine the most effective means of utilizing that information to increase CARE enrollment, automatic enrollment of ULTS customers who are eligible for the CARE program, customer privacy issues, and alternative mechanisms for outreach to potential enrollees. The commission shall ensure that a customer consents prior to enrollment. The commission shall consult with interested parties, including ULTS providers, to develop the best methods of informing ULTS customers about other available

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low-income programs, as well as the best mechanism for telephone providers to recover reasonable costs incurred pursuant to this section.

(e) (1) The commission shall improve the CARE application process by cooperating with other entities and representatives of California government, including the California Health and Human Services Agency and the Secretary of California Health and Human Services, to ensure that all gas and electric customers eligible for public assistance programs in California that reside within the service territory of an electrical corporation or gas corporation, are enrolled in the CARE program. To the extent practicable, the commission shall develop a CARE application process using the existing ULTS application process as a model. The commission shall work with public utility electrical and gas corporations and the Low-Income Oversight Board established in Section 382.1 to meet the low-income objectives in this section.

(2) The commission shall ensure that an electrical corporation or gas corporation with a commission-approved program to provide discounts based upon economic need in addition to the CARE program, including a Family Electric Rate Assistance program, utilize a single application form, to enable an applicant to alternatively apply for any assistance program for which the applicant may be eligible. It is the intent of the Legislature to allow applicants under one program, that may not be eligible under that program, but that may be eligible under an alternative assistance program based upon economic need, to complete a single application for any commission-approved assistance program offered by the public utility.

(f) ~~The commission's program of commission-supervised utility programs for providing~~ assistance to low-income electric and gas customers shall, as soon as practicable, include nonprofit group living facilities specified by the commission, if the commission finds that the residents in these facilities substantially meet the commission's low-income eligibility requirements and there is a feasible process for certifying that the assistance shall be used for the direct benefit, such as improved quality of care or improved food service, of the low-income residents in the facilities. The commission shall authorize utilities to offer discounts to eligible facilities licensed or permitted by appropriate state or local agencies, and to facilities, including women's shelters, hospices, and homeless shelters, that may not have a license or permit but provide other proof satisfactory to the utility that they are eligible to participate in the program.

(g) It is the intent of the Legislature that the commission ensure CARE program participants are afforded the lowest possible electric and gas rates and, to the extent possible, are exempt from additional surcharges attributable to the energy crisis of 2000-01.

SEC. 2. Section 739.9 of the Public Utilities Code is repealed.

~~739.9. (a) The commission may, subject to the limitation in subdivision (b), increase the rates charged residential customers for electricity usage up to 130 percent of the baseline quantities, as defined in Section 739, by the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index from the prior year plus 1 percent, but not less than 3 percent and not more than 5 percent per year. For purposes of this subdivision, the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index shall be calculated using the same formula that was used to determine the annual Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment on January 1, 2008. This subdivision shall become inoperative on January 1, 2019, unless a later enacted statute deletes or extends that date.~~

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~~(b) The rates charged residential customers for electricity usage up to the baseline quantities, including any customer charge revenues, shall not exceed 90 percent of the system average rate prior to January 1, 2019, and may not exceed 92.5 percent after that date. For purposes of this subdivision, the system average rate shall be determined by dividing the electrical corporation's total revenue requirements for bundled service customers by the adopted forecast of total bundled service sales.~~

~~(c) This section does not require the commission to increase any residential rate or place any restriction upon, or otherwise limit, the authority of the commission to reduce any residential rate.~~

SEC. 3. Section 739.9 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to read:

739.9. (a) By June 1, 2012, the commission shall adjust the rates currently charged customers for electricity usage in order to, over an appropriate transition period, eliminate by no later than January 1, 2015, the current tiered residential electricity rates pursuant to the following ratepayer fairness and equity principles:

(1) The current tiers of electric rates charged customers, and the baseline usage and other factors used to set those rates, are unfair and inequitable and must be revised to fairly and equitably reflect the actual cost of serving those customers.

(2) The current tiers of electric rates charged customers, and the baseline usage and other factors used to set those rates, are unfair and inequitable and must be revised to fairly and equitably reflect differences in climate and other factors that are outside the control of a customer.

(3) The current tiers of electric rates charged customers, and the baseline usage and other factors used to set those rates, are unfair and inequitable and must be revised to fairly and equitably provide appropriate and effective incentives to all customers to conserve and manage their energy usage and demand equally within a given class.

(b) The commission may, pursuant to Section 1701.1, determine the appropriate type of proceeding to utilize in implementing subdivision (a), and determine whether to open a new proceeding or expand the scope of an existing proceeding. The proceeding shall require a hearing.

(c) Upon the adoption of a decision, the commission shall report its determination and the change to rates pursuant to subdivision (a) to the Legislature. The report shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code. Pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code, this subdivision is inoperative on January 1, 2016.

Amendment 3

On page 1, strike out lines 1 to 3, inclusive