

GOVERNOR'S VETO
AB 1026 (Wilson)
As Enrolled September 8, 2025
2/3 vote

SUMMARY

Requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), through a proceeding, to direct large electrical corporations to post required energization application information and a sample approved application (including one for housing) on their websites, by a date set by the CPUC.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Requires the CPUC, through a new or existing proceeding, to direct large electrical corporations to compile the information needed to approve or deny an energization application, post a sample of a complete and approved application (including one for a housing development project), and make these items available on their websites by a date specified by the CPUC rather than by July 1, 2026.
- 2) Deletes timelines requiring large electrical corporations to determine completeness of energization applications within 10 to 45 business days, and instead requires them to comply with energization timelines established by the CPUC.
- 3) Deletes the 30-day period for notifying applicants of energization application approval and instead requires large electrical corporations to provide immediate email notice and, if applicable, post responses online.
- 4) Move the provisions of the bill from the Government Code to the Public Utilities Code.

Governor's Veto Message

This bill requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to direct the electric investor-owned utilities (IOUs) to adopt standardized customer connection and energization procedures for housing development projects.

The development and growth of the state's economy, as well as the achievement of our 2045 carbon neutrality goal, hinge upon the clean electrification of the state's building and transportation sectors. Timely access to electric service is foundational to achieving these outcomes, and it is why, in 2023, I signed Assembly Bill 50 (Wood) and Senate Bill 410 (Becker). These bills require the CPUC to develop criteria aimed at expediting the connection and energization of customers to the electric grid, as well as improving information sharing between the electric IOUs and local governments. These bills also require the CPUC to establish reasonable average and maximum target customer connection and energization time periods on the electric IOUs. The CPUC fulfilled these tasks in September 2024 and is actively exploring additional efforts to further the intended outcomes of both measures.

Although this bill is well-intended, it is largely duplicative of existing efforts and risks disrupting the current public decision-making processes at the CPUC, and worse, complicates the application process that customers use to request expedited electric grid connections and electric service from the state's electric IOUs.

COMMENTS

Energization Delays in IOU Territories – California's clean energy and climate policies—including the expansion of renewable electricity, the electrification of buildings, and the transition to zero-emission transportation—are driving increased demand for new electric service connections and upgrades to the distribution grid. In parallel, the state's efforts to accelerate housing supply—driven by statutory requirements—rely on timely, reliable, and accessible electric service connections. The process of energization varies widely based on project type (from single-family homes to multifamily complexes or commercial facilities), utility territory, required system upgrades, and external conditions such as weather, supply chain delays, or incomplete customer applications or permits. Depending on these variables, energization can take anywhere from a few weeks to several years.

Legislative Response to Energization Delays – To provide customers with certainty regarding expected timelines for grid connections and service upgrades, the Legislature passed SB 410 (Becker, Chapter 394, Statutes of 2023). The bill directs the CPUC to establish reasonable average and maximum target energization time periods by September 30, 2024. To ensure transparency and accountability, this measure requires IOUs to report their performance in meeting these targets, including detailed analyses of staffing levels and workforce projections. The CPUC is also expected to implement procedures for customers to report energization delays, enabling the CPUC to take remedial actions if necessary. In parallel, AB 50 (Wood, Chapter 317, Statutes of 2023) complements SB 410 by focusing on utility accountability and transparency in the energization process. It directs the CPUC to define criteria for timely electric service, including establishing categories of service, setting average energization timeframes, and identifying exceptions for complex projects. On September 12, 2024, the CPUC issued the decision in response to SB 410 and AB 50. This decision establishes statewide energization timelines, reporting requirements, and customer engagement standards for the state's three major investor-owned utilities (IOUs): Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE), and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E).

According to the Author

According to the author, "California's housing crisis demands action—not just in building new homes, but in removing unnecessary roadblocks that slow down production. Too often, housing developments that have already been approved face excessive delays in the utility connection process, leaving new units unoccupied and driving up costs for developers and future residents. These delays are not only frustrating, but they also contribute to California's housing shortage by making it harder to get projects completed on time. AB 1026 addresses this issue by requiring investor-owned utility companies to adhere to clear, standardized timelines for reviewing applications, ensuring transparency and accountability in the process. By streamlining utility connections, this bill will help get housing projects across the finish line faster—meaning more Californians will get into homes sooner."

Arguments in Support

This legislation is supported by diverse organizations that include housing advocates, developers, legal aid groups, trade associations, and local governments. They argue that this bill is necessary to address persistent delays in the processing of energization applications for housing developments by electric IOUs. While they acknowledge that SB 410 and AB 50 directed the CPUC to establish guidelines and timelines for customer energization, they note that those provisions do not fully address certain aspects of the application process. They emphasize that this bill is intended to supplement, rather than conflict with, existing law by reinforcing the timelines established through the CPUC's proceedings.

Arguments in Opposition

Utilities oppose this bill, arguing that it could disrupt ongoing efforts to implement SB 410 and AB 50. They further contend that AB 1026 gives preferential treatment to housing development projects at the expense of other critical energization needs, including commercial and medical facilities, as well as transportation and building electrification upgrades.

FISCAL COMMENTS

Pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8, this bill did not receive a hearing in the Senate Committee on Appropriations due to a determination that any state costs of the bill are not significant.

VOTES**ASM HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: 11-0-1**

YES: Haney, Patterson, Ávila Farías, Gallagher, Garcia, Kalra, Lee, Quirk-Silva, Ta, Wicks, Wilson

ABS, ABST OR NV: Caloza

ASM UTILITIES AND ENERGY: 15-0-3

YES: Petrie-Norris, Patterson, Calderon, Chen, Davies, Mark González, Harabedian, Hart, Kalra, Papan, Rogers, Schiavo, Schultz, Ta, Wallis

ABS, ABST OR NV: Boerner, Irwin, Zbur

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Sanchez, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-0-8

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Stefani, Ta, Valencia, Wallis, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Alvarez, Bryan, Chen, Nguyen, Solache, Soria, Tangipa, Ward

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0-1

YES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ABS, ABST OR NV: Jones

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0-3

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Alanis, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies,

DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
ABS, ABST OR NV: Ahrens, Alvarez, Tangipa

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