(**Without Reference to File**)

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS
AB 1301 (Petrie-Norris)
As Amended August 13, 2026
2/3 vote

SUMMARY

Original Committee of Reference: Utilities & Energy

This bill makes various changes to code regarding the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), and the California Energy Commission (CEC), including, but not limited to, extending the sunset of the Energy Conservation Assistance Act (ECAA) from 2028 to 2038, removing existing law that specifies that the CEC's Public Advisor must be an attorney, and exempting electrical cooperatives from provisions of the Public Utilities Act effective after January 1, 2027, unless statute expressly applies those provisions to electrical cooperatives.

Senate Amendments
Current Committee Recommendation: Senate Amendments Be Concurred

Modified amendments to provisions in statute related to the Electricity Oversight Board (EOB) and Power Exchange (PX) to instead repeal these sections outright or strike mention of the EOB and PX.

Additionally, added the following provisions:

1. Removes existing law that require the CEC's Public Advisor to be an attorney.

2. Extends the sunset date for the ECAA program from January 1, 2028, to January 1, 2038.

3. Specifies that, for provisions of the Public Utilities Act effective after January 1, 2027, an electrical cooperative is subject to a provision of the Public Utilities Act only if the provision expressly specifies that it applies to an electrical cooperative.

4. Modifies the deadlines for completing specified regular reports for the CEC's Equitable Building Decarbonization (EBD) program and the CPUC's Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) program.

5. Makes various technical, non-substantive changes in statutes regarding dates of reports from the CPUC and CEC.

COMMENTS

This bill addresses a number of code clean up provision, detailed below:

1) Removes reference to PX and EOB: Both the PX and EOB emerged during energy sector de-regulation in 1996. The PX operated as a day-ahead market for electricity transactions. However, the PX failed at the height of the 2000-2001 energy crisis. The PX ceased

operations in 2001 and many of the roles designated to the PX are now fulfilled by the CAISO. Similarly, the EOB was established as part of the de-regulatory scheme of the 1990s, to oversee the CAISO. The EOB also represented the state in litigation regarding refunds stemming from overcharging during the 2000-2001 electricity crisis. Subsequent legislation broke up the EOB's duties and assigned its responsibility to represent the state in litigation for energy market manipulation to the Attorney General and the Board was defunded by the 2009-2010 budget. Despite the dissolution of both the EOB and PX, statute continues to reference both entities. This bill removes those outdated references.

2) Change dates of the FERA annual report and review by the CPUC: Every year, by March 1, the large investor-owned utilities (IOUs) must submit a report to the CPUC on efforts related to FERA. The CPUC must then review these reports by June 1. This bill changes the dates of these reports and review to May 1 and December 1, respectively, to allow more time for review by the CPUC.

3) Consolidate the CEC's mandated reports for EBD program: There are presently two reporting requirements for the CEC to provide regarding the EBD program. This bill consolidates these reports to reduce duplicative work.

4) Expand eligibility for CEC Public Advisor: Statute specifies that the role of the public advisor is to ensure the full participation of interested parties and the public in CEC proceedings. Unlike the CPUC, the vast majority of CEC proceedings are open to the public and do not require registration as an intervenor. The CEC maintains attorneys, including a chief counsel position, who assist in ensuring that the CEC complies with meeting notice and accessibility requirements for proceedings. As a result, it is not clear that it is necessary for the public advisor to be an attorney. This bill removes that requirement to allow for additional, qualified candidates to be considered for the position.

5) Extend sunset date for ECAA revolving loan program: The CEC's ECAA program provides low and no interest loans to state and to local governments, health facilities, educational institutions, and Native American tribes to implement projects that will improve energy conservation, expand EV charging, and install behind-the-meter solar and storage systems. The CEC has operated the ECAA program since 1979. The Legislature has passed multiple measures expanding the program and extending its operation. Most recently, the Legislature passed AB 33 (Ting, Chapter 226, Statutes of 2021), which expanded the types of projects eligible for ECAA funding and expanded participation in the program to California Native American tribes. Under existing law, ECAA is scheduled to sunset in 2028. This bill would extend that sunset date to 2038.

6) Clarify statues related to electrical corporations only apply electrical co-ops if explicitly included: Electrical cooperatives are private, non-profit electric utilities. Under current law, electrical co-ops are included in the definition of "electrical corporations", a term used to often refer to IOUs. This bill clarifies that for any provisions of the Public Utilities Act that become effective after January 1, 2027, electrical cooperatives would not be subject to those provisions unless the legislation expressly includes electrical cooperatives.

According to the Author

"AB 1301 addresses a number of needed code clean up provisions. This includes removing references to the now obsolete and defunded Power Exchange and Electricity Oversight Board, updating the date of reports for the California Public Utilities Commission and Public Advocate's

Office, consolidating reporting requirements for the California Energy Commission's (CEC) Equitable Building Decarbonization program, editing the requirements for the CEC Public Advisor, extending the sunset date for the Energy Conservation Assistance Act revolving loan program, and clarifying when statutes apply to electrical co-ops. The goal of this legislation is to update California law in a practical manner to reflect the realities of the agencies tasked with implementing and adhering to the Public Utilities and Public Resources Code."

Arguments in Support
According to Golden State Power Cooperative, which is a statewide trade association for rural electric cooperatives, writes that this bill is a "modest technical correction" that will alleviate "any potential confusion" by clarifying "statutes will only apply to rural electrical cooperatives when specifically referring to them."

Arguments in Opposition
None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the fiscal impacts of this bill are unknown but likely significant, potentially in the tens of millions of dollars, as fiscal impacts to the General Fund and possibly tax-exempt revenue bonds or other funding sources due to the ten-year sunset extension of the ECAA program.

VOTES

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

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 69-0-10
YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Carrillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
ABS, ABST OR NV: Alanis, Arambula, Bennett, Caloza, Castillo, Jeff Gonzalez, Hart, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Stefani

SENATE FLOOR: 38-0-2
YES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, 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: Blakespear, Limón

ASM UTILITIES AND ENERGY: 17-0-1
YES: Petrie-Norris, Patterson, Boerner, Calderon, Chen, Davies, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Kalra, Papan, Rogers, Schiavo, Schultz, Ta, Wallis, Zbur
ABS, ABST OR NV: Mark González

UPDATED

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