Date of Hearing: May 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Buffy Wicks, Chair
AB 2618 (Connolly) – As Amended April 13, 2026

Policy Committee: Utilities and Energy Vote: 17 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: Yes Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill prohibits a commissioner of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) from being employed by an entity subject to regulation by the CPUC for a period of two years after the end of the commissioner's term of office.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No state costs.

COMMENTS:

The California Constitution establishes the CPUC a five-member body, each member appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate, a majority of the membership concurring, for staggered six-year terms. The constitution charges the CPUC to, among other things, fix rates, establish rules, examine records, issue subpoenas, administer oaths, take testimony, punish for contempt and prescribe a uniform system of accounts for all public utilities subject to its jurisdiction.

Existing law restricts the future employment of a commissioner of the California Energy Commission (CEC) — no member of the commission may be employed within two years after they cease to be a member of the CEC by any person who engages in the sale or manufacture of any major component of any "facility," meaning any electric transmission line or thermal powerplant, or both electric transmission line and thermal powerplant, regulated under Division 15 of the California Code.

Existing law also restricts the future employment of members of the Legislature and other elected officials by prohibiting such a person's employment that influences their former body for one year after leaving office.

The law makes no restriction on the future employment of a commissioner of the CPUC. The author thinks it should:

> AB 2618 helps ensure that utility rates are not being influenced by private utility companies. This bill strengthens California's revolving-door policies by prohibiting California Public Utilities Commission Commissioners from lobbying for private utility companies…after the end of their term. As California residents continue to face out-of-control rate

hikes, weak ethics rules have allowed utility corporations to gather more influence over our regulatory system by recruiting former commissioners.

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