

The author contends the Legislature lacks the ability to force the CPUC to focus on energy affordability, which is what Californians want the CPUC to focus on. According to the author:

ACA 9 would return the power back to the people's directly elected representatives, instead of only 5 unelected political appointees. The changes in this constitutional amendment open the door for the structural reforms that are needed to get the CPUC focused on the most pressing issues Californians care about like energy affordability, meeting our climate goals, and safer utilities.

Relatedly, the author believes the CPUC should no longer regulate broadband service. For this reason, the author has also introduced AB 2289, of this legislative session, which transfers regulation of broadband from the CPUC to a new commission, the Broadband and Digital Equity Commission, which AB 2289 creates. The author explains the need for AB 2289, and this constitutional amendment, as follows:

By splitting telecommunications and broadband regulation from the CPUC, and vesting those responsibilities with a new agency, the CPUC can continue to focus its attention on the most pressing issues: energy reliability, safety, and affordability. Outside of the CPUC, the Department of Broadband and Digital Equity will enable a focused and efficient regulatory structure for telecommunications and broadband programs.

AB 2289 is pending in this committee.

Analysis Prepared by: Jay Dickenson / APPR. / (916) 319-2081