

Assembly Committee on
COMMUNICATIONS AND CONVEYANCE



2023–2024 Legislative Summary



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CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND CONVEYANCE

**2023-2024 MID-YEAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION
BILL SUMMARY**



**HONORABLE TASHA BOERNER, CHAIR
HONORABLE JIM PATTERSON, VICE CHAIR**

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND CONVEYANCE

2023 Committee Membership

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INTRODUCTION

This publication is a comprehensive collection of summaries for bills that were referred to the Assembly Committee on Communications and Conveyance during the 2021-2022 legislative session. This includes bills that were signed into law, vetoed by the Governor, held in committee, and bills that were referred and later amended to address a different subject matter.

Each summary includes the final status of the bill in italics. Bills that the Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law are listed along with their chapter numbers. In general, chaptered legislation will go into effect on January 1st of the following year. Bills that contain an urgency clause (not noted in this document) took effect immediately upon the Governor's signature.

The committee uses the following abbreviations throughout this summary:

AV (Autonomous Vehicle)
CARB (California Air Resources Board)
CASF (California Advanced Services Fund)
CEC (California Energy Commission)
CDT (California Department of Technology)
CHP (California Highway Patrol)
CPUC (California Public Utilities Commission)
CPC (Charter-party Carrier)
CTC (California Transportation Commission)
DIVCA (Digital Infrastructure and Video Competition Act)
DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles)
DDTP (Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program)
EPN (Employer Pull Notice Program)
FCC (Federal Communications Commission)
IP (Internet Protocol)
ISP (Internet Service Provider)
OES (Office of Emergency Services)
MMBI (Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative)
SVF (State Video Franchise)
VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol)
ZEV (Zero-emission Vehicle)

The Assembly Committee on Communications and Conveyance staff remains at your disposal to answer any questions regarding the content of this publication.

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Assembly Bills

AB-41 (Holden) - Telecommunications: The Digital Equity in Video Franchising Act of 2023.

This bill would have made various changes to California's cable video franchise regulation laws, including, but not limited to, clarifying the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) cable franchise regulatory authority, extending timelines for the franchise renewal process at the CPUC, prohibiting franchises from denying potential subscribers equal access to services based on the community income of those subscribers, and updating certain maximum fines for customer service violations to reflect inflation rates.

Status: *Vetoed by Governor.*

AB-286 (Wood) - Broadband infrastructure: mapping.

This bill expands the fields of data included on the California Interactive Broadband Map maintained by the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC). Specifically, this bill would allow users to submit specified self-reported data and requires the CPUC to validate self-reported data before using that data as evidence in a proceeding..

Status: *Approved by the Governor. (Chapter 645, Statutes of 2023)*

AB-296 (Rodriguez) - Office of Emergency Services: 9-1-1 Public Education Campaign.

This bill would have established the 911 Public Education Campaign, to be administered by the office in collaboration with the State 911 Advisory Board, for the purpose of educating the public on when it is appropriate to call 911 for assistance. The bill would have established the goals of the campaign, which included reducing the number of unnecessary calls to 911 call centers and reducing delays in the 911 system caused by nonemergency calls being placed.

Status: *Held in Senate Appropriations Committee.*

AB-316 (Aguar-Curry) - Vehicles: autonomous vehicles.

The bill would have prohibited the operation of an autonomous vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of 10,001 pounds or more on public roads for testing purposes, transporting goods, or transporting passengers without a human safety operator physically present in the autonomous vehicle at the time of operation. This bill also would have required a manufacturer of an autonomous vehicle to report to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) a collision on a public road that involved one of its autonomous vehicles that resulted in damage of property, bodily injury, or death within 10 days of that collision. Lastly, upon appropriate by the Legislature, the bill would have required the DMV by January 1, 2029, or 5 years after commencement of testing, whichever occurs later, to submit a report to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature evaluating the performance of autonomous vehicle

technology and its impact on public safety and employment in the transportation sector for autonomous vehicles

Status: *Vetoed by Governor.*

AB-414 (Reyes) - Communications: Digital Equity Bill of Rights.

This bill established the Digital Equity Bill of Rights, which states that it is the principle of the state, to ensure digital equity for all residents of the state, that residents shall have access to broadband that meets specific requirements, and that it is the policy of the state that, to the extent technically feasible, broadband internet subscribers benefit from equal access to broadband internet service within the service area of a broadband provider, as those terms are defined. The bill also included provisions that clarify that its provisions do not create an obligation for the state to enforce that principle or policy and does not create a private right of action against the state to enforce the bill.

Status: *Approved by the Governor. (Chapter 436, Statutes of 2023)*

AB-415 (Rodriguez) - Emergency Fairgrounds Communications Grant Act.

This bill would have enacted the Emergency Fairgrounds Communications Grant Act and would require, on or before January 1, 2025, the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to establish a grant program to provide fairgrounds with grant funding for the purpose of building and upgrading communication and internet infrastructure on fairgrounds.

Status: *Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.*

AB-662 (Boerner Horvath) - Federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program funds: administration.

This bill would require the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to strictly follow federal guidelines established by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for use of federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program funds.

Status: *Held in Senate Appropriations Committee.*

AB-711 (Jim Patterson) - Transportation network companies: participating drivers: proof of insurance.

This bill would authorize a transportation networking company (TNC) participating driver to carry their proof of insurance on a mobile electronic device, as provided.

Status: *Pending in Assembly Communications & Conveyance Committee.*

AB-768 (Boerner) - Communications: The Office of Broadband and Digital Equity.

This bill would establish within state government the Office of Broadband and Digital Equity. The bill provides that the purpose of the office is to serve as a centralized state office for broadband and digital activities within the state. The bill would also specify the office has the powers and authorities to develop and implement policies to promote

broadband service and to protect consumers from unfair business practices relating to broadband services.

Status: *Pending in Assembly Communications & Conveyance Committee.*

AB-965 (Juan Carrillo) - Local government: broadband permit applications.

This bill requires a local agency to undertake batch permit processing for broadband permits upon receiving two or more substantially similar broadband permit applications; and requires that the batch permit processing must be completed within a presumptively reasonable time, as defined.

Status: *Approved by Governor. (Chapter 553, Statutes of 2023)*

AB-988 (Mathis) - Miles Hall Lifeline and Suicide Prevention Act: veteran and military data reporting.

This bill requires an entity receiving funds from the 988 State Suicide and Behavioral Health Crisis Services Fund ("988 fund") to report on the number of individuals served who identified as veterans or active military personnel.

Status: *Approved by Governor. Chapter 460, Statutes of 2023*

AB-1061 (Boerner Horvath) - Telecommunications services.

This bill was amended out of the committee's jurisdiction and instead authored by Assemblymember Rendon relating to Electricity Supply Strategic Reliability Reserve Program.

AB-1065 (Jim Patterson) - Communications: California Advanced Services Fund.

This bill would have expressly authorize otherwise eligible wireless broadband service providers to apply for and receive funding from the Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account and the Federal Funding Account, as provided. The bill would specify that the changes made by the bill do not require the commission to initiate or reopen any proceeding as a result of the bill.

Status: *Vetoed by Governor.*

AB-1102 (Jim Patterson) - Telecommunications: privacy protections: 988 calls.

This bill would expand an existing privacy exemption authorizing telephone corporations to share telephone numbers with specified entities without regard to consent in specified circumstances.

Status: *Pending in Assembly Privacy & Consumer Protection Committee.*

AB-1231 (Santiago) - Telecommunications: combining lifeline, federal lifeline, and federal Affordable Connectivity Program subsidies.

This bill would have, no later than February 1, 2024, required the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to allow a wireline and wireless lifeline telephone service

subscriber to combine California lifeline subsidies with federal low-income communications subsidies, including, but not limited to, federal lifeline and federal Affordable Connectivity Program subsidies, on the same service line to provide a more robust voice and broadband plan. The bill would prohibit the commission from disallowing of payment to a telephone corporation providing lifeline telephone service based on the combination of those subsidies, except as provided.

Status: *Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.*

AB-1461 (Jim Patterson) - California Advanced Services Fund: Federal Funding Account.

This bill strikes existing law requiring the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to initially allocate specified funding levels to rural and urban counties through June 30, 2023 for purposes of administering the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Federal Funding Account (FFA).

Status: *Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.*

AB-1588 (Wilson) - Affordable Internet and Net Equality Act of 2023.

This bill would establish the Affordable Internet and Net Equality Act of 2023. The Act would require the Department of Technology, in coordination with the Public Utilities Commission and the Department of General Services, to develop and establish a program to ensure state agencies to only enter into a procurement contract with an internet service provider offering affordable home internet service to households participating in certain public assistance programs, as specified. The bill establishes a definition of affordable home internet service and places additional requirement on internet services providers. This bill would require the Department of Technology to annually post on its internet website a list of internet service providers that meet the requirements of the bill, as provided. The bill would not apply to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Office of Emergency Services, political subdivisions of the state, including, but not limited to, cities and counties, a contract entered into before January 1, 2025, or an internet service provider with fewer than 100,000 California residential subscribers.

Status: *Pending in Assembly Communications & Conveyance Committee.*

AB-1714 (Wood) - Public utilities: broadband service providers.

This bill would expand the definition of a “public utility” under the Public Utilities Act to include a corporation providing broadband service to the public or a portion of the public.

Status: *Pending in Assembly Communications & Conveyance Committee.*

Senate Bills

SB-429 (Bradford) - Transportation network companies: participating drivers: vehicle inspections.

This bill would codify in state law vehicle inspection requirements for vehicles used on a transportation network company (TNC) platform, and authorize those inspections to be conducted virtually.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor.

SB-757 (Archuleta) - Railroads: contract crew transportation vehicles.

This bill would clarify existing licensing and insurance requirements for operators of vehicles used primarily to provide railroad crew transportation.

Status: *Approved by Governor. (Chapter 411, Statutes of 2023)*

Appendix A: Assembly by Bill Number

Bill	Lead Authors	Subject	Status
AB-41	Holden	Telecommunications: The Digital Equity in Video Franchising Act of 2023.	Vetoed by Governor.
AB-286	Wood	Broadband infrastructure: mapping.	Approved by Governor.
AB-296	Rodriguez	Office of Emergency Services: 9-1-1 Public Education Campaign.	Held in Senate Appropriations Committee.
AB-316	Aguiar-Curry, Friedman	Vehicles: autonomous vehicles.	Vetoed by Governor.
AB-414	Reyes	Communications: Digital Equity Bill of Rights.	Approved by Governor.
AB-415	Rodriguez	Emergency Fairgrounds Communications Grant Act.	Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.
AB-662	Boerner	Federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program funds: administration.	Held in Senate Appropriations Committee.
AB-711	Jim Patterson	Transportation network companies: participating drivers: proof of insurance.	Pending in Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee.
AB-768	Boerner	Communications: The Office of Broadband and Digital Equity.	Pending in Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee
AB-965	Juan Carrillo	Local government: broadband permit applications.	Approved by Governor.
AB-988	Mathis, Wicks	Miles Hall Lifeline and Suicide Prevention Act: veteran and military data reporting.	Approved by Governor.
AB-1061	Rendon	Electricity Supply Strategic Reliability Reserve Program.	Amended out of Jurisdiction
AB-1065	Jim Patterson	Communications: California Advanced Services Fund.	Vetoed by Governor.
AB-1102	Jim Patterson	Telecommunications: privacy protections: 988 calls.	Pending in Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee
AB-1231	Santiago	Telecommunications: combining lifeline, federal lifeline, and federal Affordable Connectivity Program subsidies.	Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.
AB-1461	Jim Patterson	California Advanced Services Fund: Federal Funding Account.	Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.
AB-1588	Wilson	Affordable Internet and Net Equality Act	Pending in Assembly

Bill	Lead Authors	Subject	Status
		of 2023.	Communications and Conveyance Committee
AB-1714	Wood	Public utilities: broadband service providers.	Pending in Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee

Appendix B: Senate Bills by Bill Number

Bill	Lead Authors	Subject	Status
SB-429	Bradford	Transportation network companies: participating drivers: vehicle inspections.	Vetoed by Governor.
SB-757	Archuleta	Railroads: contract crew transportation vehicles.	Approved by Governor.