



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 9 2015

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 18, Senate Bill 48 and Assembly Bill 825 without my signature.

These bills include various provisions to increase transparency and accessibility to the Public Utilities Commission. I support the intent of these bills and many of their proposed reforms, however some additional work is needed to ensure that they achieve their intended purposes and can be effectively implemented.

Allowing Bagley-Keene and Public Records Act lawsuits to be brought against the Commission by any interested party in Superior Court, rather than exclusively in the Courts of Appeal and the California Supreme Court, will only result in increased litigation and likely delay Commission decision-making. It will not improve public access to critical information about the actions of regulated entities. Amending Section 583 of the Public Utilities Code to require more information to be publicly available is a much better way to ensure that the public is provided with this information.

Moreover, the Commission needs sufficient funds to fully accomplish some of these reforms, such as holding more public meetings outside of San Francisco, shortening the timeframe for concluding formal ratesetting and quasi-legislative proceedings and expanding the scope of the information required to be posted on the CPUC's web site. I am directing the Commission to work with the Legislature through the budget process to ensure the necessary funds are dedicated to accomplish these needed reforms.

Sincerely,

  
Edmund G. Brown Jr.