

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1659
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Business & Commerce
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DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, the Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA) sets out specific requirements for the format of telecommunications utility bills. As proposed, S.B. 1659 amend PURA to allow companies flexibility as to where and how charges appear on a customer's bill and requires a local exchange carrier to file a copy of the carrier's bill every year with the Public Utilities Commission for compliance review.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 55.012, Utilities Code, as follows:

- (b) Deletes language requiring a bill from a local exchange company for telecommunications products or services to be simplified into general categories to the extent that simplification is consistent with the purposes of this section.
- (c) Requires, to the extent permitted by law, a monthly bill from a local exchange company for local exchange telephone service to clearly identify all charges. Deletes language regarding general categories, aggregate charge, and basic local telecommunication service.
- (d) Requires local exchange carriers to file a copy of their bill annually with the Public Utility Commission (commission) for a compliance review with this section.
- (e) Provides the commission with all necessary authority to enforce this section.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.