SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND COMMUNICATIONS

Senator Steven Bradford, Chair 2023 - 2024 Regular

Bill No: AB 1533 **Hearing Date:** 7/2/2024

Author: Committee on Utilities and Energy

Version: 6/10/2024 Amended

Urgency: No Fiscal: Yes

Consultant: Nidia Bautista

SUBJECT: Electricity

DIGEST: This bill proposes various code clean-up proposals related to the California Energy Commission (CEC) and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (CEC) and prescribes the authorities, duties, and responsibilities of the commission pertaining to energy matters. (Public Resources Code §25200 *et seq.*)
- 2) Establishes an adviser position in the CEC who is nominated by the CEC and appointed by the Governor to ensure the full and adequate participation of interested groups and the public in the proceedings of the CEC. (Public Resources Code §25106)
- 3) Requires the CEC and other state agencies to exchange records, reports, materials, and other information related to energy resources and conservation and power facilities siting, or other areas of mutual concern to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort. (Public Resources Code §25224)
- 4) Requires the CPUC, by February 1 of each year, to report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature on all sources and amounts of funding and actual and proposed expenditures related to entities or programs established by the CPUC, as specified. (Public Utilities Code §910.4)

This bill:

- 1) Renames the adviser position to be the public advisor and would make conforming changes.
- 2) Authorizes the CEC to take official notice in any proceeding of any document, record, report, material, fact, or other information submitted to, or resulting from a proceeding of, the CPUC, as provided.
- 3) Repeals various obsolete provisions and would make other technical changes, including:
 - a) Deletes Public Resources Code §25406 regarding the outdated program to encourage construction of buildings that use solar thermal an photovoltaic systems, "Sunny Homes Seal."
 - b) Deletes Public Resources Code §25485 regarding an outdated program to encourage the Department of Transportation to establish preferential lanes for the use of buses and three-passenger carpool vehicles on certain state highways.
 - c) Deletes Public Resources Code §25603.5 that required the CEC to design the State Solar Medallion Passive Design Competition, as provided.
 - d) Deletes Public Resources Code §25678 to establish a grant program to provide an incentive for liquid fuels fermentation in the state.
 - e) Deletes Public Resources Code §25696 authorizes the CEC to assist California-based energy technology and energy conservation firms to export their technologies, products, and services to international markets.
 - f) Clarifies Public Resources Code §25305.5 that "firm zero-carbon resources" are those electrical resources that deliver zero-carbon electricity.
 - g) Recodifies and reorganizes the reporting requirements in Public Utilities Code §454.53 requiring a joint report to the Legislature by the CEC, CPUC, and California Air Resources Board.
- 4) Requires the CPUC, upon an entity listed in Public Utilities Code §910.4 ceasing operations, or a program ending, because its activities have concluded, to continue reporting on the entity or program for the subsequent two fiscal years. Requires the CPUC following those subsequent two fiscal years to require the CPUC to note in the report which entity ceased operations or which program ended and would relieve the CPUC of future reporting obligations related to the entity or program.

Background

This bill proposes clean-up of various sections of the codes, including deleting obsolete provisions and updating provisions.

Amendments needed. This bill is mostly code clean-up. However, a few provisions may not have been intended to be included or they raise policy questions or they make changes to statutes prior to recent bills being chaptered. These sections include Section 14, 30, 36, and 37. *In this regard, the author and committee may wish to amend this bill to delete these provisions.*

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT:

None received

OPPOSITION:

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author:

This bill is the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee omnibus that includes various code clean up provisions. It clarifies a statutory definition, moves the statutory location of various California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) reports, sunsets certain CPUC reports pursuant to program closures, removes obsolete California Energy Commission (CEC) reports and programs due to fulfillment or changes in state policy, and provides additional code-clean up.