

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
Senator Thomas Umberg, Chair
2025-2026 Regular Session

AB 1303 (Valencia)
Version: June 26, 2025
Hearing Date: July 8, 2025
Fiscal: Yes
Urgency: No
ID

SUBJECT

Communications: lifeline telephone service program

DIGEST

This bill prohibits the California Public Utilities Commission and providers and administrators of the California LifeLine program from sharing program applicant or subscriber information with local, state, or federal agencies without a court-ordered subpoena or judicial warrant, prohibits the LifeLine program from requiring applicants and subscribers to provide social security numbers, and declares the LifeLine program a state law within the meaning of specified federal law.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The California LifeLine program provides low-income Californians with subsidized telephone services. It is administered by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), which administers the program along with the federal Lifeline program that similarly provides federal subsidies for telephone and broadband service for low-income Americans. In 2012, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) implemented rules for the federal Lifeline program requiring applicants to provide the last four digits of their Social Security Number (SSN). Because the CPUC administers the California LifeLine program and the federal Lifeline program together, applicants for both programs are required to provide their SSNs. This requirement can prevent non-citizen Californians who are ineligible for an SSN from being able to benefit from the state Lifeline program. To help increase participation in the California LifeLine program by non-citizen low-income Californians, AB 1303 prohibits the CPUC from requiring that applicants and subscribers of the Lifeline program provide an SSN. AB 1303 also prohibits the sharing of program applicant or subscribers' information with local, state, or federal agencies and immigration authorities without a subpoena or judicial warrant. Lastly, AB 1303 specifies that the California LifeLine program is a state law that provides public benefits for individuals without immigration status within the meaning of specified federal law.

AB 1303 is sponsored by The Utility Reform Network, and is supported by Media Alliance and a number of other media organizations and foundations. The Committee has received no timely letters of opposition. AB 1303 previously passed the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee by a vote of 11 to 1.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LAW

Existing federal law:

- 1) Establishes the federal Lifeline program to provide non-transferrable discounted retail telephone or broadband service for qualifying low-income consumers, and sets the amount of subsidy for the program at \$9.25 per month. (47 CFR § 54.400 et seq.)
- 2) Establishes the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) and specifies that certain immigrants shall not be eligible for any state or local public benefit, except as provided.
 - a) Defines “state or local public benefit” to mean the following:
 - i. any grant, contract, loan, professional license, or commercial license provided by an agency or state or local government or by appropriated funds of a State or local government; and
 - ii. any retirement, welfare, health, disability, public or assisted housing, postsecondary education, food assistance, unemployment benefit, or any other similar benefit for which payments or assistance are provided to an individual, household, or family eligibility unit by an agency of a State or local government or by appropriated funds of a State or local government.
 - b) Provides that specified state or local public benefits are exempt from this prohibition, if the state enacts a state law after August 22, 1996, that affirmatively provides undocumented immigrants eligibility for the state or local public benefit. (8 U.S.C. § 1621.)

Existing state law:

- 1) Establishes the Moore Universal Telephone Service Act, also known as the California Lifeline program, to support the state’s universal telecommunications service goals and provide Californians access to basic telephone service at affordable rates. (Pub. Util. Code §§ 871 et seq.)
- 2) Authorizes the CPUC to annually designate a class of lifeline service necessary to meet minimum communications needs, and to develop eligibility criteria for that service. (Pub. Util. Code § 873.)
- 3) Requires that Lifeline telephone service rates and charges be as follows:

- a) In a residential subscriber's service area where measured service is not available, rates may not be more than 50 percent of the rates for basic flat rate service, outside of federally-mandated charges.
 - b) Where measured service is available, rates may be either, at the election of the subscriber:
 - i. A lifeline telephone service measured rate of not more than 50 percent of the basic rate for measured service, exclusive of federally-mandated charges; or
 - ii. A lifeline flat rate of not more than 50 percent of the rates for basic flat rate service, exclusive of federally-mandated charges.
 - c) For the lifeline telephone service installation or connection charge, not more than 50 percent of the charge for basic residential service installation or connection, or both, as specified. (Pub. Util. Code § 874.)
- 4) Requires every lifeline telephone service subscriber be given an allowance, minus any credit or allowance authorized by the FCC, equal to the then-current or announced federally-mandated residential end user access charges. (Pub. Util. Code § 875.)
- 5) Requires the CPUC to establish a modified recertification process that minimizes barriers to lifeline subscriber recertification and reduces the burden and cost of recertification of the Lifeline program, including through utilizing the Lifeline program's third-party administrator, as specified. (Pub. Util. Code § 878.6.)
- 6) Provides that an electrical corporation or gas corporation shall not share, disclose, or otherwise make accessible to any third party a customer's electrical or gas consumption data, except as specified or upon the consent of the customer. (Pub. Util. Code § 8380 (b)(1).)
- 7) Provides that a local publicly owned electric utility shall not share, disclose, or otherwise make accessible to any immigration authority, as defined in Section 7284.4 of the Government Code, a customer's electrical consumption data without a court-ordered subpoena or judicial warrant. (Public Util. Code § 8381(e).)
- 8) Provides that a common carrier shall not share, disclose, or otherwise make accessible to any immigration authority, any information shared or received pursuant to any provision of this chapter without a court-ordered subpoena or judicial warrant. (Civ. Code § 2215(g).)

This bill:

- 1) Prohibits the CPUC, CPUC staff, the lifeline programs third-party administrator, and lifeline service providers, and their contractors, agents, successors, or assignees from sharing, disclosing, or otherwise making accessible any information provided

by an applicant or subscriber of the Lifeline program and any subprogram or pilot program to any local, state, or federal agency, or to any immigration authority, as defined, without a court-ordered subpoena or judicial warrant.

- 2) Provides the prohibition in (1), above, does not prohibit the furnishing of applications, records, and data to other public agencies to the extent required for verifying an applicant or subscriber's eligibility for lifeline service.
- 3) Specifies that it does not prohibit the CPUC, CPUC staff, the Lifeline program's third-party administrator, or lifeline service providers from using aggregated subscriber or applicant data for analysis, reporting, or program management, if the aggregated data cannot be used to determine the identity of persons to whom the data pertains, alone or in combination with other data.
- 4) Permits the CPUC, CPUC staff, the third-party administrator, and lifeline service providers and their agents, successors, or assignees to request, but not require, that applicants and subscribers provide social security numbers, in whole or in part, to apply to or participate in the lifeline program.
- 5) Specifies that, to the extent that Section 1621 of Title 8 of the U.S. Code applies to the Lifeline program, the Legislature finds and declares that the Lifeline program is a state law that may provide assistance and services for people without social security numbers, within the meaning of a specified exception to that section of the U.S. Code.
- 6) Provides, for the purposes of an exception to the limitation on a telephone or telegraph corporation's making available to any other person or corporation specified subscriber information without the subscriber's consent, "lawful process" to mean an action taken pursuant to a court-ordered subpoena or judicial warrant.

COMMENTS

1. Author's statement

According to the author:

AB 1303 will help increase participation for eligible undocumented Californians, and ensures they can access essential communication services without fear of unnecessary government overreach. This bill reinforces our commitment to protecting the privacy of residents who rely on the Lifeline Program.

2. California's immigrant communities and the threat of immigration enforcement

California is home to about 10.6 million immigrants, accounting for 22% of the foreign-born population nationwide.¹ In 2023, 27% of the state's population was foreign born, the highest of any state. Of California's immigrant population, about 1.8 million are undocumented, and 45% are non-citizens. Undocumented and non-citizen Californians are important members of their communities that help make California a thriving, diverse, and healthy state to live in.

President Trump, since re-entering the office, has promised to ramp up immigration enforcement and greatly increase deportations, and in doing so has understandably stoked considerable fear among immigrant communities. Already, he has attempted to make due on this promise, through various executive actions that have declared a national emergency at the southern border, halted refugee admission, expanded who immigration enforcement officers can prioritize for deportation, expanded expedited removal, increased the hiring of immigration officers, and expanded immigration detention. In the last few months, the administration also has carried out numerous highly-visible immigration raids and enforcement actions, and has sought immigrants' information from various federal and state agencies for the purposes of immigration enforcement. Just earlier this month, Governor Newsom reported that the Trump administration's Department of Health and Human Services provided Medicaid beneficiary information, including data that included enrollees' immigration status, to the agency responsible for immigration enforcement.² These reports of increased immigration enforcement from a federal government increasingly hostile to immigrants have made many without immigration status, or who have family members who are not U.S. citizens, afraid to utilize government services for which they may otherwise be eligible, if doing so requires sharing personal information or providing information that may reveal their immigration status.

3. The state and federal Lifeline Program

The California LifeLine program was created by the Moore Universal Telephone Service Act (AB 1348 (Moore) Ch. 1143, Stats. 1983) (Moore Act) in 1983 to ensure the availability of affordable local telephone service. It provides enrollees with subsidized telephone service, such as a subsidized cellular phone plan, if they meet certain income requirements. An applicant must generally prove eligibility by either showing that they receive a means-tested public benefit like Medi-Cal, or that their income is 150 percent

¹ Marisol Cuellar Mejia et al., Fact Sheet: Immigrants in California, Public Policy Institute of California (Jan. 2025), available at <https://www.ppic.org/publication/immigrants-in-california/>.

² Kristen Hwang, "Gov. Newsom lambasts Trump for giving immigrants' health data to deportation officials," CalMatters (Jun. 13, 2025), <https://calmatters.org/health/2025/06/newsom-trump-immigrant-data-deportation-medicaid/>.

or less of the federal poverty level.³ An enrollee may receive a monthly service discount of up to \$19, as well as a service connection discount. The California LifeLine program is administered by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). In addition to the state program, a Federal Lifeline program has been in existence since 1985. The federal program provides a subsidy of up to \$9.25, and is regulated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). To be eligible for the federal Lifeline program, an applicant must make 135% of the federal poverty level or less.⁴ Although the programs are slightly different, the CPUC administers both programs.

4. The proposal that the CPUC not require social security numbers to apply for the Lifeline program

In 2012, the FCC implemented rules for the federal Lifeline program that required applicants to provide the last four digits of their Social Security Number (SSN), in an effort to eliminate incidences of duplicative support.⁵ Thus, applying for either lifeline program through the CPUC requires that an applicant provide the last four digits of their social security number. This requirement effectively shut out individuals without immigration status from the program, as generally individuals without immigration status are ineligible to receive an SSN. It should be noted, however, that some non-citizens can receive an SSN for employment purposes if they have been authorized to work in the United States.

In 2014, the CPUC adopted a rule to implement a state Lifeline program funded by California that would not require a SSN to apply, and to continue efforts to request that the FCC waive the federal SSN requirement for the state to verify an applicant's federal eligibility.⁶ However, it appears the CPUC has not taken any more action to implement a state Lifeline program that does not require the submission of an applicant's SSN. In July, 2024, the CPUC issued a proposed decision that would have implemented its 2014 rule and would require the CPUC to adopt a dual pathway application process by which individuals who do not have SSNs could apply for the California LifeLine Program.⁷ However, that decision has not been made final.

³ See Cal. Pub. Utilities Comm'n, "California LifeLine Eligibility," (accessed Jun. 27, 2025)

<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/consumer-support/financial-assistance-savings-and-discounts/lifeline/california-lifeline-eligibility>.

⁴ Fed. Communications Comm'n, "Lifeline program for low-income consumers," (accessed Jun. 27, 2025)

<https://www.fcc.gov/general/lifeline-program-low-income-consumers>.

⁵ Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Fed. Communications Comm'n, FCC 12-11(Feb. 6, 2012).

⁶ Order Instituting Rulemaking Regarding Revisions to the California Universal Telephone Service (LifeLine) Program, Cal. Pub. Utilities Comm'n, R.11-03-013 (Jan. 27, 2014).

⁷ Order Instituting Rulemaking to Update the California Universal Telephone Service (California LifeLine) Program, Cal. Pub. Utilities Comm'n, R.20-02-008 (Jun. 22, 2024) (proposed decision).

5. AB 1303 would permit individuals to apply for the Lifeline program without a SSN, and would prohibit the Lifeline program from sharing applicant and participants' information

AB 1303 would prohibit the CPUC, the program's third-party administrator, and lifeline service providers from requiring an applicant or subscriber of the Lifeline program to provide all or part of their SSNs. It would permit the CPUC to request a SSN. In addition, AB 1303 would prohibit the CPUC and the third-party administrator, lifeline service providers, and contractors from sharing, disclosing, or otherwise making available any information provided by an applicant or subscriber of the Lifeline program to any local, state, or federal agency, or to any immigration authority, without a court-ordered subpoena or judicial warrant. This prohibition would not prohibit applications, records, and data to be shared to other public agencies for the purpose of verifying an applicant's or subscriber's eligibility. Moreover, AB 1303 would still permit the use of aggregated data that cannot be used to identify specific individuals.

AB 1303's provisions would effectively require the CPUC to permit applicants to apply without an SSN, thereby implementing the CPUC's previous 2014 order and ensuring that individuals without an SSN may access the state Lifeline program. Applicants would still be ineligible for the federal program. AB 1303's limitation on the sharing of an applicant or subscriber's information is aimed at ensuring that a participant's information is not shared with other agencies, including for immigration enforcement purposes. This aims to protect that information, and the applicant, from any risks that information which could indicate their immigration status could be shared with an agency that could use it for immigration enforcement purposes. If the federal government were to request this data without a valid judicial warrant, AB 1303 would bar the CPUC and any of the entities involved in the administration of the Lifeline program from providing this information. The state would not be required to ever give this data if requested by the federal government under the anti-commandeering doctrine derived from the Tenth Amendment. (*See, United States v. California* (2019) 921 F.3d 865; *United States v. California* (2020) 141 S. Ct. 124.)

6. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996

In 1996, President Bill Clinton signed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA). (Pub. L. 104-193, 104th Cong. 1996.) PRWORA substantially reformed the welfare system, including how immigrants may qualify for public benefits. It limited many immigrants' eligibility for public benefits to those who were considered a qualified immigrant, which included only those of certain immigration statuses. For federal means-tested public benefits, PRWORA limited such benefits to qualified immigrants who had resided in the United States for at least five years.

In addition, PRWORA put into place the provisions relevant to this bill. Those provisions make any immigrant who is not a qualified immigrant under the statute, a nonimmigrant under immigration law, or an immigrant who has been temporarily paroled into the United States for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit, ineligible for state or local public benefits, with specified exceptions. (8 U.S.C. § 1621.) PRWORA provided that a state or local public benefit for the purposes of its prohibition includes: any grant, contract, loan, professional license, or commercial license; any retirement, welfare, health, disability, public or assisted housing, postsecondary education, food assistance, unemployment benefit, or any other similar benefit. (8 U.S.C. § 1621(c).) However, PRWORA included an important caveat to its prohibition: a state may provide that an immigrant without lawful status in the United States is eligible for a State or local public benefit through enactment of a state law that affirmatively provides for such eligibility. (8 U.S.C. § 1621(d).)

There has been some litigation around PRWORA and other state laws that provide benefits to undocumented individuals. In *Martinez v. Regents of University of California*, out-of-state students of the University of California challenged California's law providing undocumented individuals with in-state tuition when they have attended California high schools and met other requirements. (*Martinez v. Regents of University of California*, (2010) 50 Cal. 4th 1277.) The California Supreme Court determined that the law complied with PRWORA's exception because it was enacted after PRWORA, and stated in numerous provisions that it applies to persons without lawful immigration status. (*Id.*, 1294.) In another case, *In Re Garcia*, the California Supreme Court found that an undocumented applicant for admission to the State Bar as a licensed attorney was not precluded from being admitted because Business and Professions Code Section 6064 explicitly allowed undocumented individuals to be admitted to the State Bar. (*In re Garcia*, (2014) 58 Cal. 4th 440.)

AB 1303 specifies that the California Lifeline program is a state law subject to the exception in PRWORA for a state program that affirmatively provides eligibility for individuals without lawful immigration status. It is somewhat unclear whether the Lifeline subsidies would be considered a state or local public benefit, considering a subsidy is not listed within the definition of a public benefit provided by PRWORA, but it could be argued that the Lifeline subsidy is a grant, or would fall within the catch-all category of "any other similar benefit." It is undoubtedly a benefit, as the recipient receives discounted telephone service. In the same vein, it could also be considered welfare. However, while AB 1303 references the provision of PRWORA, it does not explicitly state that it is a state law that provides public benefits regardless of immigration status. The author may wish to amend the bill to more explicitly state that the California Lifeline program is a state law that provides assistance and services for individuals regardless of immigration status. This would be in line with the previous state laws deemed within PRWORA's exception that are discussed above.

7. Amendments

The author has agreed to a number of amendments. The amendments specify that an immigration authority must have a valid judicial warrant in order for the CPUC or the Lifeline program's staff, third-party administrator, and Lifeline program contractors and agents to share, disclose or otherwise make accessible the information of an applicant or subscriber. They also provide a definition for immigration authority and immigration enforcement, and clarify that the Lifeline program is a state law within the meaning of PRWORA's exception that provides assistance and services to individuals not lawfully present in the United States. A full mock-up of the amendments is attached at the end of this analysis.

SUPPORT

The Utility Reform Network (TURN) (sponsor)
Access Humboldt
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Media Alliance
Media Justice
Oakland Privacy
The Greenlining Institute

OPPOSITION

None received

RELATED LEGISLATION

Pending Legislation: SB 716 (Durazo, 2025) requires the CPUC to include broadband internet services as a class of Lifeline service eligible for the state Lifeline subsidy, establishes specified requirements for internet service providers (ISPs) participating in the Lifeline program, and requires each participating ISP to offer at least one plan through Lifeline that provides internet access at specified levels and rates. SB 716 is currently pending before the Assembly Communications and Conveyances Committee.

Prior Legislation:

AB 1588 (Wilson, 2024) would have required the CPUC to establish an expedited process by which an existing regulated telephone service provider that offers broadband services or has an affiliate that offers broadband services can become an eligible telecommunications carrier for the purposes of providing Lifeline services. AB 1588 was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 394 (Hueso, Ch. 765, Stats. 2021) modified the definition of a “household” for the purposes of the Lifeline program to conform California’s definition to the definition adopted by the FCC for the federal Lifeline program.

AB 2788 (Gloria, Ch. 188, Stats. 2020) prohibited immigration authorities from obtaining access to customers’ electrical and gas consumption data without a court-ordered subpoena or judicial warrant.

AB 523 (Irwin, 2019) would have prohibited wireless telephone providers and their affiliates from disclosing customer cell site location without first obtaining a customer’s express consent or in circumstances needed for the operation of the 911 system or in response to particularized court-ordered warrant. AB 523 died on the Senate Inactive File.

PRIOR VOTES:

Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee (Ayes 11, Noes 1)

Assembly Floor (Ayes 61, Noes 12)

Assembly Appropriations Committee (Ayes 11, Noes 4)

Assembly Judiciary Committee (Ayes 8, Noes 3)

Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee (Ayes 8, Noes 2)

Mock-up of Amendments for AB-1303 (Valencia (A))

(Amendments may be subject to technical changes by Legislative Counsel)

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 876.5 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to read:

876.5. (a) The commission, its staff, the lifeline program's third-party administrator, and lifeline service providers, and their contractors, agents, successors, or assignees, shall not share, disclose, or otherwise make accessible any information provided by an applicant or subscriber to the lifeline program, or a subprogram or pilot program of the lifeline program, to any agency of a local government, a state government, or the federal government, or to any immigration authority, ~~as defined in Section 7284.4 of the Government Code,~~ without a court-ordered subpoena or *valid* judicial warrant.

(b) This section does not prohibit the furnishing of applications, records, and data to other public agencies to the extent required for verifying an applicant's or subscriber's eligibility for lifeline service.

(c) This section does not prohibit the commission, its staff, the lifeline program's third-party administrator, or lifeline service providers from using aggregated subscriber or applicant data for analysis, reporting, or program management if the aggregated subscriber or applicant data cannot be used to determine the identities of the persons to whom the data pertains, alone or in combination with other data.

(d) The commission, its staff, the lifeline program's third-party administrator, and lifeline service providers, and the providers' agents, successors, or assignees, may request, but shall not require, applicants and subscribers to provide social security numbers, in whole or in part, to apply to, or participate in, the lifeline program.

(e) To the extent Section 1621 of Title 8 of the United States Code applies to this article, the Legislature finds and declares that this article is a state law that may provide assistance and services for ~~people~~ *individuals not lawfully present in the United States* ~~without social security numbers~~ within the meaning of subsection (d) of Section 1621 of Title 8 of the United States Code.

(f) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Immigration authority" means any federal, state, or local officer, employee, or person performing immigration enforcement functions.

(2) "Immigration enforcement" includes any and all efforts to investigate, enforce, or assist in the investigation or enforcement of any federal civil immigration law, and also includes any and all efforts to investigate, enforce, or assist in the investigation or

enforcement of any federal criminal immigration law that penalizes a person's presence in, entry, or reentry to, or employment in, the United States.

SEC. 2. Section 2891 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:

2891. (a) A telephone or telegraph corporation shall not make available to any other person or corporation, without first obtaining the residential subscriber's consent, in writing, any of the following information:

(1) The subscriber's personal calling patterns, including any listing of the telephone or other access numbers called by the subscriber, but excluding the identification to the person called of the person calling and the telephone number from which the call was placed, subject to the restrictions in Section 2893, and also excluding billing information concerning the person calling that federal law or regulation requires a telephone corporation to provide to the person called.

(2) The residential subscriber's credit or other personal financial information, except when the corporation is ordered by the commission to provide this information to any electrical, gas, heat, telephone, telegraph, or water corporation, or centralized credit check system, for the purpose of determining the creditworthiness of new utility subscribers.

(3) The services that the residential subscriber purchases from the corporation or from independent suppliers of information services who use the corporation's telephone or telegraph line to provide service to the residential subscriber.

(4) Demographic information about individual residential subscribers, or aggregate information from which individual identities and characteristics have not been removed.

(b) Any residential subscriber who gives their written consent for the release of one or more of the categories of personal information specified in subdivision (a) shall be informed by the telephone or telegraph corporation regarding the identity of each person or corporation to whom the information has been released, upon written request. The corporation shall notify every residential subscriber of the provisions of this subdivision whenever consent is requested pursuant to this subdivision.

(c) Any residential subscriber who has, pursuant to subdivision (b), given written consent for the release of one or more of the categories of personal information specified in subdivision (a) may rescind this consent upon submission of a written notice to the telephone or telegraph corporation. The corporation shall cease to make available any personal information about the subscriber, within 30 days following receipt of the notice given pursuant to this subdivision.

(d) This section does not apply to any of the following:

(1) Information provided by residential subscribers for inclusion in the corporation's directory of subscribers.

(2) Information customarily provided by the corporation through directory assistance services.

(3) Postal ZIP Code information.

(4) Information provided under supervision of the commission to a collection agency by the telephone corporation exclusively for the collection of unpaid debts.

(5) Information provided to an emergency service agency responding to a 911 telephone call or any other call communicating an imminent threat to life or property.

(6) Information provided to a law enforcement agency in response to lawful process.

(7) Information that is required by the commission pursuant to its jurisdiction and control over telephone and telegraph corporations.

(8) Information transmitted between telephone or telegraph corporations pursuant to the furnishing of telephone service between or within service areas.

(9) Information required to be provided by the corporation pursuant to rules and orders of the commission or the Federal Communications Commission regarding the provision over telephone lines by parties other than the telephone and telegraph corporations of telephone or information services.

(10) The name and address of the lifeline customers of a telephone corporation provided by that telephone corporation to a public utility for the sole purpose of low-income ratepayer assistance outreach efforts. The telephone corporation receiving the information request pursuant to this paragraph may charge the requesting utility for the cost of the search and release of the requested information.

(11) Information provided in response to a request pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 530.8 of the Penal Code.

(e) Every violation of this section is grounds for a civil suit by the aggrieved residential subscriber against the telephone or telegraph corporation and its employees responsible for the violation.

(f) For purposes of this section, both of the following definitions apply:

(1) "Access number" means a telex, teletex, facsimile, computer modem, or any other code that is used by a residential subscriber of a telephone or telegraph corporation to direct a communication to another subscriber of the same or another telephone or telegraph corporation.

(2) "Lawful process" means an action taken pursuant to a court-ordered subpoena or judicial warrant.

SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.