

YES on AB 470

All Californians Deserve Reliable, Fast, and Affordable Communications Options

Assembly Bill 470 (McKinnor) is a responsible, balanced approach to modernizing California's communications network. AB 470 will move California forward while protecting consumers, preserving access to essential voice services, strengthening public safety and preparing the state for the future.



DISCUSSIONS WITH LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP & STAKEHOLDERS RESULTED IN:

- *The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and the Urban Counties of California (UCC) have removed their opposition.*
- *Modernization process will be overseen by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) with strong guidelines and guardrails set by the Legislature* to ensure any transition protects consumers and remains timely.
- *California's modern communications expansion efforts will be strengthened*, as any provider seeking amended COLR status must build out advanced fiber optic networks to more residential locations, including in areas that are not "well-served." This ramp up of modern networks will directly connect more Californians to advanced communications technologies.

WHAT AB 470 WILL DO:

Modernize Infrastructure Over Time – No Californian Left Behind

- ☑ **AB 470 ensures a careful, phased-in, multi-year modernization process that protects all Californians during the transition to a next-generation communications network.**
 - AB 470 requires the CPUC to designate geographic areas. Modernization will only be permitted in areas that are unpopulated and without customers, or designated as "well-served," meaning:
 - At least three alternative voice services are available, including:
 - At least one alternative must be a wireline provider,
 - At least two basic voice service options, priced comparably to COLR copper landline rates,
 - At least one alternative must participate in the discounted California LifeLine program.
 - **In populated areas not identified as "well-served," nothing changes, and current law remains in effect.**
- ☑ AB 470 specifies that if all alternative service providers exit the market, leaving the area with no alternatives, the prior COLR must return and provide voice service to affected customers.

Provide Robust Consumer Protections

- ☑ **AB 470 directs the CPUC** to conduct a thorough review process to verify access to alternative services, ensuring consumers are protected.
- ☑ **AB 470 establishes multiple consumer challenge opportunities**, including allowing anyone to dispute an amended status request.
- ☑ AB 470 also requires the commission to create a public notice process, ensuring customers and community members are aware of a potential change.

Strengthen Public Safety

- ✓ **AB 470 incorporates the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)** in the CPUC proceeding to set detailed COLR reform processes for applicants.
- ✓ **AB 470 ensures no impact to Land Mobile Radio (LMR) systems** used by first responders.
- ✓ **AB 470 will provide transition assistance funding for public safety agencies** as they migrate to modern network infrastructure.
 - This includes funding for Tribal nations, local governments and community-based organizations to be used on outreach and awareness, with a focus on residents in high-risk areas.
- ✓ To the extent feasible, AB 470 requires that a replacement voice service must be offered that is compatible with home alarm systems, medical alert devices and point-of-sale terminals.

Ensure Voice Services Remain Affordable

- ✓ AB 470 requires providers to continue serving LifeLine customers in amended status areas, and then to assist them in transitioning to a similarly priced voice plan.
- ✓ AB 470 mandates that for an area to be considered “well-served,” all households throughout the area must have access to affordable alternative options when compared to the current COLR copper landline rates.
- ✓ AB 470 also requires providers to offer an affordable broadband plan to eligible customers.

Protect Workers During the Transition

- ✓ **AB 470 safeguards telecommunications workers** by strengthening union job protections throughout the transition to a modern communications network.
 - Union-represented technicians must be offered retention, retraining or placement in another union-represented position, before any job is transitioned.
 - Full-time workers involved in transition-related work must be paid either the prevailing wage or their bargained contract rate.
 - Providers must submit a workforce compliance plan to the CPUC and Legislature detailing:
 - How they will meet worker protection requirements,
 - How union labor will be utilized,
 - How retraining programs will support existing employees.

Prepare California for the Future

- ✓ **AB 470 ensures providers reinvest in the Golden State** by requiring the buildout of broadband infrastructure and the expansion of high-speed internet access to hundreds of thousands of Californians.
- ✓ AB 470 requires providers to fund community-based digital literacy programs.
- ✓ **AB 470 legally binds providers to fulfill commitments**, and the commission has the authority to force remedy if a provider fails to meet any obligation.