



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

September 29, 2016

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

Today, I am signing:

Assembly Bill 2168
Senate Bill 62
Senate Bill 215
Senate Bill 512
Senate Bill 661

These bills enact some of the major reforms to the Public Utilities Commission that were a part of the comprehensive package my Administration announced earlier this year to improve safety, governance, accountability and transparency.

Unfortunately, two additional bills in the package – Assembly Bill 2903 and Senate Bill 1017 – stalled in the Legislature and did not reach my desk. These important reforms cannot wait another year. To that end, I am calling upon the Commission to use its existing authority to take immediate action to:

- Appoint an Ethics Ombudsman.
- Establish a web portal for the Public Advisor to receive public complaints and comments.
- Create a streamlined process for more quickly releasing information to the public.
- Improve coordination with other state agencies and departments.
- Increase the Commission's presence outside of San Francisco.
- Work with the California Research Bureau to study the governance of telecommunications service.

I am also directing my Administration to work with the Commission to develop a reorganization plan that:

- Transfers those duties and responsibilities of the Commission over transportation-related entities that will be better performed by departments within the California Transportation Agency.



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- Codifies the appointment of all senior executive staff who will serve at the pleasure of the Commission, including the Executive Director, the General Counsel, the Internal Auditor and the Chief Administrative Law Judge.
- Reflects and codifies the appointment of a Deputy Executive Director for Safety and Chief Internal Auditor.

In addition, my Administration will continue to work with the Legislature to enact the remaining statutory measures included in the original reform package. Together, these administrative reforms and legislative acts will bring much needed improvement to the Commission.

Sincerely,


Edmund G. Brown Jr.