

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 3, 2017  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 20, 2017  
AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 2, 2017  
AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 28, 2017

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 649**

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**Introduced by Senator Hueso**  
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Quirk)  
**(Coauthor: Senator Dodd)**  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Dababneh)

February 17, 2017

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An act to amend Section 65964 of, and to add Sections 65964.2 and 65964.5 to, the Government Code, relating to telecommunications.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 649, as amended, Hueso. Wireless telecommunications facilities.

Under existing law, a wireless telecommunications collocation facility, as specified, is subject to a city or county discretionary permit and is required to comply with specified criteria, but a collocation facility, which is the placement or installation of wireless facilities, including antennas and related equipment, on or immediately adjacent to that wireless telecommunications collocation facility, is a permitted use not subject to a city or county discretionary permit.

This bill would provide that a small cell is a permitted use, subject only to a specified permitting process adopted by a city or county, if the small cell meets specified requirements. By imposing new duties on local agencies, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would authorize a city or county to require an encroachment permit or a building permit, and any additional ministerial permits, for

a small cell, as specified. The bill would authorize a city or county to charge 3 types of fees: an annual ~~administrative permit fee~~, *charge for each small cell attached to city or county vertical infrastructure*, an annual attachment rate, or a ~~on-time one-time~~ reimbursement fee. The bill would require the city or county to comply with notice and hearing requirements before imposing the annual attachment rate. The bill would require an action or proceeding to challenge a fee imposed under the provisions of this bill to be commenced within 120 days of the effective date of the ordinance or resolution. The bill would define the term “small cell” for these purposes.

This bill would prohibit a city or county from adopting or enforcing any regulation on the placement or operation of a communications facility in the rights-of-way by a provider that is authorized by state law to operate in the rights-of-way or from regulating that service or imposing any tax, fee, or charge, except as provided in specified provisions of law or as specifically required by law.

~~Under existing law, a city or county, as a condition of approval of an application for a permit for construction or reconstruction of a development project for a wireless telecommunications facility, may not require an escrow deposit for removal of a wireless telecommunications facility or any component thereof, unreasonably limit the duration of any permit for a wireless telecommunications facility, or require that all wireless telecommunications facilities be limited to sites owned by particular parties within the jurisdiction of the city or county, as specified.~~

~~This bill would require permits for these facilities to be renewed for equivalent durations, as specified.~~

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares that, to ensure
- 2 that communities across the state have access to the most advanced
- 3 communications technologies and the transformative solutions

1 that robust wireless and wireline connectivity enables, such as  
2 Smart Communities and the Internet of Things, California should  
3 work in coordination with federal, state, and local officials to create  
4 a statewide framework for the deployment of advanced wireless  
5 communications infrastructure in California that does all of the  
6 following:

7 (a) Reaffirms local governments' historic role and authority  
8 with respect to communications infrastructure siting and  
9 construction generally.

10 (b) Reaffirms that deployment of telecommunications facilities  
11 in the rights-of-way is a matter of statewide concern, subject to a  
12 statewide franchise, and that expeditious deployment of  
13 telecommunications networks generally is a matter of both  
14 statewide and national concern.

15 (c) Recognizes that the impact on local interests from individual  
16 small wireless facilities will be sufficiently minor and that such  
17 deployments should be a permitted use statewide and should not  
18 be subject to discretionary zoning review.

19 (d) Requires expiring permits for these facilities to be renewed  
20 so long as the site maintains compliance with use conditions  
21 adopted at the time the site was originally approved.

22 (e) Requires providers to obtain all applicable building or  
23 encroachment permits and comply with all related health, safety,  
24 and objective aesthetic requirements for small wireless facility  
25 deployments on a ministerial basis.

26 (f) Grants providers fair, reasonable, nondiscriminatory, and  
27 nonexclusive access to locally owned utility poles, streetlights,  
28 and other suitable host infrastructure located within the public  
29 rights-of-way and in other local public places such as stadiums,  
30 parks, campuses, hospitals, transit stations, and public buildings  
31 consistent with all applicable health and safety requirements,  
32 including Public Utilities Commission General Order 95.

33 (g) Provides for full recovery by local governments of the costs  
34 of attaching small wireless facilities to utility poles, streetlights,  
35 and other suitable host infrastructure in a manner that is consistent  
36 with existing federal and state laws governing utility pole  
37 attachments generally.

38 (h) Permits local governments to charge wireless permit fees  
39 that are fair, reasonable, nondiscriminatory, and cost based.

1 (i) Advances technological and competitive neutrality while not  
2 adding new requirements on competing providers that do not exist  
3 today.

4 ~~SEC. 2. Section 65964 of the Government Code is amended~~  
5 ~~to read:~~

6 ~~65964. As a condition of approval of an application for a permit~~  
7 ~~for construction or reconstruction for a development project for a~~  
8 ~~wireless telecommunications facility, as defined in Section 65850.6,~~  
9 ~~a city or county shall not do any of the following:~~

10 ~~(a) Require an escrow deposit for removal of a wireless~~  
11 ~~telecommunications facility or any component thereof. However,~~  
12 ~~a performance bond or other surety or another form of security~~  
13 ~~may be required, so long as the amount of the bond security is~~  
14 ~~rationally related to the cost of removal. In establishing the amount~~  
15 ~~of the security, the city or county shall take into consideration~~  
16 ~~information provided by the permit applicant regarding the cost~~  
17 ~~of removal.~~

18 ~~(b) Unreasonably limit the duration of any permit for a wireless~~  
19 ~~telecommunications facility. Limits of less than 10 years are~~  
20 ~~presumed to be unreasonable absent public safety reasons or~~  
21 ~~substantial land use reasons. However, cities and counties may~~  
22 ~~establish a build-out period for a site. A permit shall be renewed~~  
23 ~~for equivalent durations unless the city or county makes a finding~~  
24 ~~that the wireless telecommunications facility does not comply with~~  
25 ~~the codes and permit conditions applicable at the time the permit~~  
26 ~~was initially approved.~~

27 ~~(c) Require that all wireless telecommunications facilities be~~  
28 ~~limited to sites owned by particular parties within the jurisdiction~~  
29 ~~of the city or county.~~

30 ~~SEC. 3.~~

31 ~~SEC. 2. Section 65964.2 is added to the Government Code, to~~  
32 ~~read:~~

33 ~~65964.2. (a) A small cell shall be a permitted use subject only~~  
34 ~~to a permitting process adopted by a city or county pursuant to~~  
35 ~~subdivision (b) if it satisfies the following requirements:~~

36 ~~(1) The small cell is located in the public rights-of-way in any~~  
37 ~~zone or in any zone that includes a commercial or industrial use.~~

38 ~~(2) The small cell complies with all applicable federal, state,~~  
39 ~~and local health and safety regulations, including the federal~~

1 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101  
2 et seq.).

3 (3) The small cell is not located on a fire department facility.

4 (b) (1) A city or county may require that the small cell be  
5 approved pursuant to a building permit or its functional equivalent  
6 in connection with placement outside of the public rights-of-way  
7 or an encroachment permit or its functional equivalent issued  
8 consistent with Sections 7901 and 7901.1 of the Public Utilities  
9 Code for the placement in public rights-of-way, and any additional  
10 ministerial permits, provided that all permits are issued within the  
11 timeframes required by state and federal law.

12 (2) Permits issued pursuant to this subdivision may be subject  
13 to the following:

14 (A) The same permit requirements as for similar construction  
15 projects and applied in a nondiscriminatory manner.

16 (B) A requirement to submit additional information showing  
17 that the small cell complies with the Federal Communications  
18 Commission’s regulations concerning radio frequency emissions  
19 referenced in Section 332(c)(7)(B)(iv) of Title 47 of the United  
20 States Code.

21 (C) A condition that the applicable permit may be rescinded if  
22 construction is not substantially commenced within one year.  
23 Absent a showing of good cause, an applicant under this section  
24 may not renew the permit or resubmit an application to develop a  
25 small cell at the same location within six months of rescission.

26 (D) A condition that small cells no longer used to provide  
27 service shall be removed at no cost to the city or county.

28 (E) Compliance with building codes, including building code  
29 structural requirements.

30 (F) A condition that the applicant pay all electricity costs  
31 associated with the operation of the small cell.

32 (G) A condition to comply with feasible design and collocation  
33 standards on a small cell to be installed on property not in the  
34 rights-of-way.

35 (3) Permits issued pursuant to this subdivision shall not be  
36 subject to:

37 (A) Requirements to provide additional services, directly or  
38 indirectly, including, but not limited to, in-kind contributions from  
39 the applicant such as reserving fiber, conduit, or pole space.

1 (B) The submission of any additional information other than  
2 that required of similar construction projects, except as specifically  
3 provided in this section.

4 (C) Limitations on routine maintenance or the replacement of  
5 small cells with small cells that are substantially similar, the same  
6 size or smaller.

7 (D) The regulation of any micro wireless facilities mounted on  
8 a span of wire.

9 (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a city  
10 or county shall not impose permitting requirements or fees on the  
11 installation, placement, maintenance, or replacement of micro  
12 wireless facilities that are suspended, whether embedded or  
13 attached, on cables or lines that are strung between existing utility  
14 poles in compliance with state safety codes.

15 (c) A city or county shall not preclude the leasing or licensing  
16 of its vertical infrastructure located in public rights-of-way or  
17 public utility easements under the terms set forth in this  
18 subdivision. Vertical infrastructure shall be made available for the  
19 placement of small cells under fair and reasonable fees, subject to  
20 the requirements in subdivision (d), terms, and conditions, which  
21 may include feasible design and collocation standards. A city or  
22 county may reserve capacity on vertical infrastructure if the city  
23 or county adopts a resolution finding, based on substantial evidence  
24 in the record, that the capacity is needed for projected city or county  
25 uses.

26 (d) (1) A city or county may charge the following fees:

27 (A) An annual ~~administrative permit fee~~ *charge* not to exceed  
28 two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each small cell attached to  
29 city or county vertical infrastructure.

30 (B) An annual attachment rate that does not exceed an amount  
31 resulting from the following requirements:

32 (i) The city or county shall calculate the rate by multiplying the  
33 percentage of the total usable space that would be occupied by the  
34 attachment by the annual costs of ownership of the vertical  
35 infrastructure and its anchor, if any.

36 (ii) The city or county shall not levy a rate that exceeds the  
37 estimated amount required to provide use of the vertical  
38 infrastructure for which the annual recurring rate is levied. If the  
39 rate creates revenues in excess of actual costs, the city or county  
40 shall use those revenues to reduce the rate.

1 (iii) For purposes of this subparagraph:

2 (I) “Annual costs of ownership” means the annual capital costs  
3 and annual operating costs of the vertical infrastructure, which  
4 shall be the average costs of all similar vertical infrastructure  
5 owned or controlled by the city or county. The basis for the  
6 computation of annual capital costs shall be historical capital costs  
7 less depreciation. The accounting upon which the historical capital  
8 costs are determined shall include a credit for all reimbursed capital  
9 costs. Depreciation shall be based upon the average service life of  
10 the vertical infrastructure. Annual cost of ownership does not  
11 include costs for any property not necessary for use by the small  
12 cell.

13 (II) “Usable space” means the space above the minimum grade  
14 that can be used for the attachment of antennas and associated  
15 ancillary equipment.

16 (C) A one-time reimbursement fee for actual costs incurred by  
17 the city or county for rearrangements performed at the request of  
18 the small cell provider.

19 (2) A city or county shall comply with the following before  
20 adopting or increasing the rate described in subparagraph (B) of  
21 paragraph (1):

22 (A) At least 14 days before the hearing described in  
23 subparagraph (C), the city or county shall provide notice of the  
24 time and place of the meeting, including a general explanation of  
25 the matter to be considered.

26 (B) At least 10 days before the hearing described in  
27 subparagraph (C), the city or county shall make available to the  
28 public data indicating the cost, or estimated cost, to make vertical  
29 structures available for use under this section if the city or county  
30 adopts or increases the proposed rate.

31 (C) The city or county shall, as a part of a regularly scheduled  
32 public meeting, hold at least one open and public hearing at which  
33 time the city or county shall permit the public to make oral or  
34 written presentations relating to the rate. The city or county shall  
35 include a description of the rate in the notice and agenda of the  
36 public meeting in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act  
37 (Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 54950.5) of Part 1 of  
38 Division 2 of Title 5).

39 (D) The city or county may approve the ordinance or resolution  
40 to adopt or increase the rate at a regularly scheduled open meeting

1 that occurs at least 30 days after the initial public meeting described  
2 in subparagraph (C).

3 (3) A judicial action or proceeding to attack, review, set aside,  
4 void, or annul an ordinance or resolution adopting, or increasing,  
5 a fee described in this subdivision, shall be commenced within  
6 120 days of the effective date of the ordinance or resolution  
7 adopting or increasing the fee. A city or county or interested person  
8 shall bring an action described in this paragraph pursuant to  
9 Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 860) of Title 10 of Part 2 of  
10 the Code of Civil Procedure in a court of competent jurisdiction.

11 (4) This subdivision does not prohibit a wireless service provider  
12 and a city or county from mutually agreeing to an annual  
13 ~~administrative permit fee charge~~ or attachment rate that is ~~less~~  
14 ~~than~~ *different from* the fees or rates established above.

15 (e) A city or county shall not discriminate against the  
16 deployment of a small cell on property owned by the city or county  
17 and shall make space available on property not located in the public  
18 rights-of-way under terms and conditions that are no less favorable  
19 than the terms and conditions under which the space is made  
20 available for comparable commercial projects or uses. These  
21 installations shall be subject to reasonable and nondiscriminatory  
22 rates, terms, and conditions, which may include feasible design  
23 and collocation standards.

24 (f) This section does not alter, modify, or amend any franchise  
25 or franchise requirements under state or federal law, including  
26 Section 65964.5.

27 (g) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the  
28 following meanings:

29 (1) “Micro wireless facility” means a small cell that is no larger  
30 than 24 inches long, 15 inches in width, 12 inches in height, and  
31 that has an exterior antenna, if any, no longer than 11 inches.

32 (2) (A) “Small cell” means a wireless telecommunications  
33 facility, as defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section  
34 65850.6, or a wireless facility that uses licensed or unlicensed  
35 spectrum and that meets the following qualifications:

36 (i) The small cell antennas on the structure, excluding the  
37 associated equipment, total no more than six cubic feet in volume,  
38 whether an array or separate.

39 (ii) Any individual piece of associated equipment on pole  
40 structures does not exceed nine cubic feet.



- 1 (iii) The cumulative total of associated equipment on pole
- 2 structures does not exceed 21 cubic feet.
- 3 (iv) The cumulative total of any ground-mounted equipment
- 4 along with the associated equipment on any pole or nonpole
- 5 structure does not exceed 35 cubic feet.
- 6 (v) The following types of associated ancillary equipment are
- 7 not included in the calculation of equipment volume:
- 8 (I) Electric meters and any required pedestal.
- 9 (II) Concealment elements.
- 10 (III) Any telecommunications demarcation box.
- 11 (IV) Grounding equipment.
- 12 (V) Power transfer switch.
- 13 (VI) Cutoff switch.
- 14 (VII) Vertical cable runs for the connection of power and other
- 15 services.
- 16 (VIII) Equipment concealed within an existing building or
- 17 structure.
- 18 (B) “Small cell” includes a micro wireless facility.
- 19 (C) “Small cell” does not include the following:
- 20 (i) Wireline backhaul facility, which is defined to mean a facility
- 21 used for the transport of communications data by wire from
- 22 wireless facilities to a network.
- 23 (ii) Coaxial or fiber optic cables that are not immediately
- 24 adjacent to or directly associated with a particular antenna or
- 25 collocation.
- 26 (iii) Wireless facilities placed in any historic district listed in
- 27 the National Park Service Certified State or Local Historic Districts
- 28 or in any historical district listed on the California Register of
- 29 Historical Resources or placed in coastal zones subject to the
- 30 jurisdiction of the California Coastal Commission.
- 31 (iv) The underlying vertical infrastructure.
- 32 (3) (A) “Vertical infrastructure” means all poles or similar
- 33 facilities owned or controlled by a city or county that are in the
- 34 public rights-of-way or public utility easements and meant for, or
- 35 used in whole or in part for, communications service, electric
- 36 service, lighting, traffic control, or similar functions.
- 37 (B) For purposes of this paragraph, the term “controlled” means
- 38 having the right to allow subleases or sublicensing. A city or county
- 39 may impose feasible design or collocation standards for small cells

1 placed on vertical infrastructure, including the placement of  
2 associated equipment on the vertical infrastructure or the ground.

3 ~~(h) Existing agreements between a wireless service provider,~~  
4 ~~or its agents and assigns, and a city, a county, or a city or county's~~  
5 ~~agents and assigns, regarding the leasing or licensing of vertical~~  
6 ~~infrastructure entered into before the operative date of this section~~  
7 ~~remain in effect, subject to applicable termination or other~~  
8 ~~provisions in the existing agreement, or unless otherwise modified~~  
9 ~~by mutual agreement of the parties. A wireless service provider~~  
10 ~~may require the rates of this section for new small cells sites that~~  
11 ~~are deployed after the operative date of this section in accordance~~  
12 ~~with applicable change of law provisions in the existing~~  
13 ~~agreements. provisions. The operator of a small cell may accept~~  
14 ~~the rates of this section for small cells that are the subject of an~~  
15 ~~application submitted after the agreement is terminated pursuant~~  
16 ~~to the terms of the agreement.~~

17 (i) Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize or  
18 impose an obligation to charge a use fee different than that  
19 authorized by Part 2 (commencing with Section 9510) of Division  
20 4.8 of the Public Utilities Code on a local publicly owned electric  
21 utility.

22 (j) This section does not change or remove any obligation by  
23 the owner or operator of a small cell to comply with a local publicly  
24 owned electric utility's reasonable and feasible safety, reliability,  
25 and engineering policies.

26 (k) A city or county shall consult with the utility director of a  
27 local publicly owned electric utility when adopting an ordinance  
28 or establishing permitting processes consistent with this section  
29 that impact the local publicly owned electric utility.

30 ~~(l) Except as provided in subdivisions (a) and (b), nothing~~  
31 *Nothing* in this section shall be construed to modify the rules and  
32 compensation structure that have been adopted for an attachment  
33 to a utility pole owned by an electrical corporation or telephone  
34 corporation, as those terms are defined in Section 216 of the Public  
35 Utilities Code pursuant to state and federal law, including, but not  
36 limited to, decisions of the ~~Public Utility~~ *Utilities* Commission  
37 adopting rules and a compensation structure for an attachment to  
38 a utility pole owned by an electrical corporation or telephone  
39 corporation, as those terms are defined in Section 216 of the Public  
40 Utilities Code.

1 (m) Nothing in this section shall be construed to modify any  
2 applicable rules adopted by the Public Utilities Commission,  
3 including General Order 95 requirements, regarding the attachment  
4 of wireless facilities to a utility pole owned by an electrical  
5 corporation or telephone corporation, as those terms are defined  
6 in Section 216 of the Public Utilities Code

7 (n) The Legislature finds and declares that small cells, as defined  
8 in this section, have a significant economic impact in California  
9 and are not a municipal affair as that term is used in Section 5 of  
10 Article XI of the California Constitution, but are a matter of  
11 statewide concern.

12 ~~SEC. 4.~~

13 *SEC. 3.* Section 65964.5 is added to the Government Code, to  
14 read:

15 65964.5. Except as provided in Sections 65964, 65964.2, and  
16 65850.6, or as specifically required by state law, a city or county  
17 may not adopt or enforce any regulation on the placement or  
18 operation of communications facilities in the rights-of-way by a  
19 provider authorized by state law to operate in the rights-of-way,  
20 and may not regulate any communications services or impose or  
21 collect any tax, fee, or charge not specifically authorized under  
22 state law.

23 ~~SEC. 5.~~

24 *SEC. 4.* No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
25 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because  
26 a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service  
27 charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or  
28 level of service mandated by this act, within the meaning of Section  
29 17556 of the Government Code.