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PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

SB 460 De Leon CA Consumer Protection and Net Neutrality Act of 2018

PURPOSE: SB 460 enacts into California State Law the consumer protections and fair competition requirements of “net neutrality” contained in the Obama FCC rules and repealed last month by the Trump FCC.

BACKGROUND: California is the most populous state in the union with nearly 40 million people. It is the 5th largest economy on the planet, boasting high-tech industries, agriculture, energy, manufacturing, film, and finance and trade –just to name a few. The state’s population and businesses are heavily dependent on fair and competitive rules for internet access.

Last month, the Trump Administration Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on a split, partisan vote, repealed strong consumer protection rules for internet neutrality enacted by the Obama Administration. These rules were intended to protect consumers from unscrupulous business practices and usurious charges for broadband internet service. States like WA, NY, and NJ have announced efforts to enact state laws to protect consumers by establishing their own net neutrality laws.

PROPOSAL: SB 460 does all of the following:

- Makes it unlawful for broadband internet providers to block or limit internet services, to interfere with or disadvantage customers’ access to internet service, or to engage in deceptive or misleading marketing practices.
- Expressly allows the Attorney General, a district attorney, or a city attorney to enforce these prohibitions under the Unfair Business Practices and Deceptive Advertising provisions of law.
- Directs the CA Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to establish new rules to enforce net neutrality requirements, to use the state’s role as a customer and as a funder of key internet services to ensure the state “practices what it preaches” regarding net neutrality, and provides “plain English” information to consumers on net neutrality rules.

SUPPORT: None on file

OPPOSITION: None on File