

MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pat Apple at 1:30 p.m. on February 3, 2011, in Room 548-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Sen. Jay Emler, excused

Committee staff present:

Matt Sterling, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Cindy Lash, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Heather O'Hara, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Ann McMorris, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Patrick Fucik, Sprint

John Idoux, Centurylink

Doug Smith for Bob Boaldin, Morton County Commissioner

Dina Fisk, Verizon Wireless

Written testimony for the proponents listed above was distributed at the January 31, 2011 Senate Utilities Committee meeting but due to the lack of time, their appearances were rescheduled to the February 1 meeting of the Senate Utilities Committee. (State legislative offices closed February 1 and 2 due to a massive snow storm so hearings were continued on February 3.)

Others attending: See attached list.

Chair continued hearing on:

SB 50, concerning emergency communications service

Proponents

John Idoux, Centurylink, provided background on the activities of Centurylink. Centurylink supports **SB 50** which would provide PSAPs with a funding level needed to sustain operations. This legislation also includes additional accountabilities by all parties involved in the collection and disbursement processes. **SB 50** offers benefits to subscribers, carriers and PSAPs. New language was recommended to correct a technicality. (Attachment 1)

Patrick Fucik, Sprint, noted the key to maintaining the most effective 911 system in Kansas is a consistent and reliable source of funding which **SB 50** would ensure. He distributed a survey on the prepaid wireless service in the United States. (Attachment 2)

Senator Kultala asked about a chart to show step-by-step the process of collecting the funding. Mr. Fucik agreed to provide that information.

Doug Smith spoke for Bob Boaldin, Morton County Commissioner. Mr. Boaldin's concern was that the long-term needs of the grant fund can't be met by limiting its resources. The new technologies being developed are more costly, and without the 911 grant fund the communities will not be able to afford a system that provides reliable service. (Attachment 3)

Dina Fisk, Verizon Wireless, echoed the concerns of those speaking before her. She spoke in support of the provision that creates parity for all telecommunications users to pay equitably into the 911 fund. (Attachment 4)

Written testimony was provided by Sasha Stiles, city administrator, City of Andover, Kansas. (Attachment 5)

State of Kansas wireless enhanced 911 annual report was distributed to the committee. (Attachment 6)

Committee members asked for further information: (1) 911 Federal grant flow chart; (2) Current Kansas law flow chart; (3) comparison of the .55 cent funding and the .50 cent funding.

Chair announced the hearing on **SB 50** would remain open. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann McMorris, Committee Assistant

Attachments - 6