

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Tom Sloan at 9:06 a.m. on March 14, 2000 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. Carl Holmes

Committee staff present: Lynne Holt, Legislative Research Department
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes
Jo Cook, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Duane Johnson, State Librarian
Craig Grant, KNEA
Mike Reece, A. T. & T.
Mike Murray, Sprint
John Federico, Kansas Cable Telecommunications Assn.
Jay Allbaugh, Cox Communications

Others attending: See Attached Guest List

Rep. Kuether moved to approve the minutes from the February 18, February 21, February 22, and February 23 meetings. Rep. Loyd seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Continued Hearing on Sub HB 2591 - State education technology network, establishment

Copies of responses, by the previous day's conferees, to requests by the committee were distributed. They were: Memorandum to Morey Sullivan from Mark Braun regarding the legal opinion on a proposed amendment to **HB 2591** (Attachment 1); copies of the K.S.A.'s that are referenced in the bill (Attachment 2); and information from the Kansas Department of Education regarding enrollment, state-to-state comparisons, National Profile and KSDE's E-rate application (Attachment 3).

Duane Johnson, State Librarian, testified in support of **Sub HB 2591** (Attachment 4). Mr. Johnson stated that KAN-ED would help Kansas stay competitive in this global information economy. Mr. Johnson also distributed copies of the State Library's E-rate application (Attachment 5).

Craig Grant, speaking on behalf of the Unified School Finance Coalition, testified as a proponent of **Sub HB 2591** (Attachment 6). Mr. Grant stated that the coalition hoped the committee would support the schools in finding the best way to create the backbone in technology they believe is desperately needed.

Mr. Mike Reece, representing A. T. & T., spoke in support of **Sub HB 2591** (Attachment 7). Mr. Reece explained that, in today's world of advancing technology, the options to provide connectivity include traditional land line and cable technologies as well as the newer wireless and satellite solutions.

Mike Murray, Director of Governmental Affairs for Sprint, appeared in support of **Sub HB 2591** (Attachment 8). Mr. Murray stated that Sprint recommends that **HB 2591** be the subject of an interim study to include representation from industry.

Mr. John Federico, on behalf of the Kansas Cable Telecommunications Assn., presented testimony in support of **Sub HB 2591** (Attachment 9). Mr. Federico stated that the cable television industry's actions speak volumes about their commitment to connecting Kansas schools and libraries.

Jay Allbaugh, Cox Communications, presented information to the committee about their just released offer of free high speed Internet access to Kansas schools in Cox's service areas (Attachment 10).

The conferees responded to questions from Rep. Vining, Rep. Kuether, Rep. Dahl, Rep. Krehbiel, Rep. Toelkes, Rep. McClure, Rep. Klein, Rep. Alldritt, Rep. Morrison, Rep. Loyd and Rep. Sloan.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES in Room 231-N on March 14, 2000 at 9:06 a.m.

Vice-Chairman Sloan reminded the committee that the two sub-committees would be meeting tomorrow to work **Sub HB 2591**. The sub-committee chaired by Rep. McClure would meet in Room 527-S and the sub-committee chaired by Rep. Sloan would meet in Room 231-N. The full committee will then work the bill on Thursday.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Next meeting will be Thursday, March 16, 2000 at 9:00 a.m.