

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl D. Holmes at 9:08 a.m. on February 2, 2000 in Room 522-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

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 Library
Dale Dennis, Department of Education
Rob Hodges, Kansas Telecommunications Industry Assn.
Jay Allbaugh, Cox Communications

Others attending: See Attached Guest List

Chairman Holmes announced he had introduced a bill in Select Committee on Information Management that should come to our committee. The bill is a request to have the Kansas Corporation Commission to act as a clearing house for collecting information on fiber optic cable. Specifically to find out where cable is located and the highest speed it is capable of carrying. Chairman Holmes shared a copy of an article that appeared in the Tuesday, January 25, 2000 edition of the Topeka Capitol Journal entitled "Surfs Up in College Dorm Rooms"(Attachment 1). Also distributed to the committee was the annual KCC report "Report to the 2000 Kansas Legislature" (A copy is on file in the Legislative Research Department).

HB 2635 - State education technology network for schools

Chairman Holmes welcomed Lynne Holt of Legislative Research, who provided an overview of **HB 2635**. She explained it was very similar to **HB 2591**, on which the committee had been previously briefed, however, this bill does not include a reference to libraries.

Chairman Holmes introduced Duane Johnson, State Librarian, who spoke in support of **HB 2635** (Attachment 2). He stressed the importance and need for this bill, referred to as KAN-ED, and the need to include libraries, as outlined in **HB 2591**. Mr. Johnson explained that KAN-ED will equalize people's access to educational information and services, it will improve connectivity by replacing inadequate modem connections with broadband access, improve equalized access to scholarly information that will improve research for education and economic development, provide opportunities for training for use of the technology and information services and help people of all ages learn essential technology skills. He stated that KAN-ED is a necessary state infrastructure in this global information economy. Addressing the need to include libraries in this program, Mr. Johnson stated that the local library is 1) a rich source of education information to students and teachers, 2) a connection to the information network of all other libraries from which needed information is borrowed and shared, 3) a point of access to the state, national and global information network, 4) the inviting, non-threatening place where many adults receive their early training in computer and Internet research, 5) the university library for the student learning through distance education and 6) an essential partner assisting K through 80 education. Mr. Johnson also distributed copies of "KAN-ED: The Next Step Toward a Statewide Network for Schools, Libraries and State Agencies in Kansas" - a proposal to the Kansas Legislative Special Committee on Education, September 22, 1999 (Attachment 3).

Mr. Johnson responded to questions from Rep. Dahl, Rep. Vining, Rep. Alldritt, Rep. Toelkes, Rep. McClure and Rep. Holmes.

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES in Room 522-S on February 2, 2000 at 9:08

CONTINUATION SHEET

a.m.

Mr. Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Education, spoke to the bill. Mr. Dennis stated that the Senate Ways and Means Sub-Committee had endorsed the Governors' proviso that the Department of Education receive e-rate funding with the rate to be determined in May 2000.

Mr. Dennis responded to questions from Rep. Krehbiel, Rep. Alldritt and Rep. McClure.

Mr. Rob Hodges, President of the Kansas Telecommunications Industry Association, appeared on behalf of the Association and the membership of the State Independent Telephone Association of Kansas. Mr. Hodges stated that the members have concerns about the bill, but stop short of any opposition. The concerns stated were that KAN-ED could put the state in competition with private enterprise, competition with financing of educational institutions, and does the bill require provision of service to both private and public schools.

Mr. Hodges responded to questions from Rep. Vining, Rep. Alldritt, Rep. Loyd, Rep. Krehbiel, Rep. Holmes and Rep. McClure.

Jay Allbaugh, Cox Communications, presented an overview of Multimedia Cablevision/Cox Communications' Statewide Technology Initiative (Attachment 5). His presentation explained both the existing and planned Kansas Fiber Network Cox Communications has for the state. Mr. Allbaugh stated that there are wide area networks already in place and shared information on the affordable wide area networks they are planning.

Mr. Allbaugh responded to questions from Rep. Sloan, Rep. Alldritt and Rep. Morrison.

Chairman Holmes closed the hearing on **HB 2635**.

Rep. Loyd moved to approved the minutes of the January 24, January 25, January 26, and January 27 meetings. Rep. Krehbiel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Next meeting will Thursday, February 3, 2000 at 9:00 a.m.