

MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Stan Clark at 9:30 a.m. on March 3, 2004 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes  
Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research  
Ann McMorris, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

KDOT Secretary Deb Miller  
David Lake, Emergency Medical Services

Others attending: See Attached List.

Approval of Committee Minutes

Moved by Senator Tyson, seconded by Senator Taddiken, minutes of the Senate Utilities Committee meetings held on February 18, 19, 20, 23, 24 #1 and 24 #2 be approved. Motion carried.

Chair opened hearing on

HB 2756 - Public safety communication system; purchase of equipment to lease to public safety agencies; issuance of revenue bonds

Proponents:

Secretary Deb Miller of the Kansas Department of Transportation (Attachment 1)

Secretary Miller summarized her written testimony. This bill opens an opportunity to change the KDOT approach on use of 800 MHz towers in coordination with the Kansas Highway Patrol. Three areas will be addressed: (1) establish a revolving fund to authorize establishment of rates for leasing communication system equipment and access to such equipment; (2) Permit other government and private agencies to use their towers; (3) enhance KDOT system and move to next generation which would allow transmission of data.

David Lake, Emergency Medical Services (Attachment 2)

This bill addresses the need for interoperative communication of public service agencies and would be most beneficial in coordinating efforts in times of emergency.

Written testimony provided by John Pinegar, Kansas Legislative Policy Group (Attachment 3)

Chair opened for questions and discussion. Committee questioned the conferees regarding reaction by private agencies, consultant cost and source of funds, other states that have adopted this course; background qualifications of the consultant team and how they were obtained. Chair asked KDOT to provide a copy of the contract with the consultant.

Closed hearing on **HB 2756**.

Chair announced the schedule for the committee for this week and possibilities of hearings for the following week.

The next meeting of the Senate Utilities Committee is scheduled for March 4, 2004.

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann McMorris, Secretary  
Attachments - 3