

MINUTES OF THE E-GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Deena Horst at 3:35 p.m. on February 12, 2002, in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except Representative Holmes, who was excused.

Committee staff present:

Robert Chapman, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Gary Deeter, Committee Secretary
Dean Samuelson, Assistant Secretary

Others attending: See attached sheet.

The Chair welcomed Jerry Niebaum, Planning Coordinator for the KAN-ED initiative, who outlined the project to provide a broadband technology-based network to which schools, libraries and hospitals may connect for high-speed Internet access and intranet access for distance learning. (Attachment 1) He said the Governor signed the KAN-ED Act into law on April 20, 2001, an act authorizing the Kansas Board of Regents to oversee the project, which to date has established a 12-person User Advisory Council and has enlisted the cooperation of private industries such as Sprint, Cox Cable, and Southwestern Bell. He said a contingent contract was signed this month with the Division of Information Services and Communications (DISC), which will develop and maintain a backbone network to which various private Internet Service Providers can provide access to the end users—every school district, public library and hospital in Kansas that wishes to connect to the network. The User Advisory Council completed a comprehensive architectural and fiscal plan for KAN-ED in November 2001, which was endorsed by the Kansas Board of Regents and the State Board of Education in February 2002.

Mr. Niebaum listed significant reasons for such a network: distance learning to alleviate teacher shortages, interactive learning with lead teachers, improved rural health care, and resources for small businesses through local libraries. He then gave a multi-media presentation to illustrate his testimony. He said that the annual cost of KAN-ED will be \$12 million, noting that an offset of about \$2 ½ million from the federal e-rate will result in a commitment of about \$10 million from the State General Fund.

Answering questions, Mr. Niebaum said that Internet I has in fact become the World Wide Wait; that Internet II, begun by a group of universities, is used exclusively for research. He said recently Internet II was made available under certain circumstances to K-12 schools. He replied that KAN-ED defines “broadband” as a T1 equivalent to each access point. He noted that KAN-ED will allocate \$2 ½ million to support schools and libraries unable to fund access on their own. Asked to look to the future, Mr. Niebaum said the information highway is fast becoming more important than physical highways. He said because of the public/private partnership, upgrades and expansion of services can be accomplished with little increase in funding. He noted that KAN-ED does not presently include access to local governments, but that because DISC maintains KAN-WIN (the state-wide data network), KAN-ED could easily establish access points to local units of government through DISC.

The Chair assigned **HB 2667** to two sub-committees for further study: to the Technology Sub-Committee to further examine technology issues; to the State and Local Government Services to consider policy issues.

The minutes for the February 5, 2002, meeting were approved as printed. (Motion, Representative Lane, second Representative McLeland)

The Chair reminded members of the hearing on **HB 2719** on Thursday, February 14, 2002, saying that sub-committees would likely have time to meet following the hearing. The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.