

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl D. Holmes at 9:12 a.m. on March 2, 2000 in Room 231-N 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: Janette Luehring, KCC
Steve Rarrick, Assistant Attorney General
Ann Mah, Southwestern Bell

Others attending: See Attached Guest List

SB 455 - Late payment fees on KUSF assessments.

Chairman Holmes welcomed Janette Luehring, Chief of Telecommunications for the Kansas Corporation Commission, who testified in support of **SB 455** (Attachment 1). Ms. Luehring provided information to the committee about the background on the late payment fees assessments from the original 1996 docket and the 1997 order.

Ms. Luehring responded to questions from Rep. Sloan, Rep. Alldritt, Rep. Long, Rep. Loyd, Rep. McClure, Rep. Kuether, Rep. Vining, Rep. Holmes, and Rep. Krehbiel.

SB 431 - Addition of unwanted charges to telephone bills prohibited

Mr. Steve Rarrick, , Deputy Attorney General for the Consumer Protection Division of the office of Attorney General Carla Stovall, testified in support of **SB 431** (Attachment 2). Mr. Rarrick explained that the bill would amend the statute that prohibits slamming (the unauthorized switching of a consumer's local or long distance phone service without express authorization) to include the prohibition on cramming (the adding of unauthorized charges to a consumer's phone bill). It does exempt the consumer's existing local or long distance carrier.

Mr. Rarrick responded to questions from Rep. Alldritt, Rep. Vining, Rep. McClure, Rep. Krehbiel, Rep. Toelkes and Rep. Holmes.

Ms. Ann Mah, Area Manager in Regulatory Affairs for Southwestern Bell, testified as an opponent to **SB 431** (Attachment 3). Ms. Mah stated that Southwestern Bell had supported the original draft of the bill. However, the amended language that requires them to obtain express authorization for services sold through their subsidiaries was not supportable.

Ms. Mah responded to questions from Rep. Dahl, Rep. Alldritt, Rep. Loyd, Rep. Krehbiel, and Rep. Klein.

Additionally, Chairman Holmes allowed the Kansas Corporation Commission representatives to respond to questions from Rep. Myers, Rep. Morrison and Rep. Krehbiel.

Meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2000 at 9:00 a.m.