

HOUSE BILL No. 2701

By Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications

2-7

1 AN ACT concerning broadband; creating the statewide broadband
2 expansion task force; relating to the expansion of broadband services.
3

4 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

5 Section 1. (a) There is hereby established the statewide broadband
6 expansion task force. The task force shall be composed of 23 voting
7 members, as follows:

8 (1) Four members of the house of representatives appointed by the
9 speaker of the house of representatives with one member from the house
10 standing committee on energy, utilities and telecommunications and one
11 member from the house standing committee on commerce;

12 (2) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the
13 minority leader of the house of representatives;

14 (3) two members of the senate appointed by the president of the
15 senate with one member from the senate standing committee on utilities
16 and one member from the standing committee on commerce;

17 (4) one member of the senate appointed by the minority leader of the
18 senate;

19 (5) one member appointed by the Kansas association of counties;

20 (6) one member appointed by the Kansas league of municipalities;

21 (7) two members appointed by the Kansas rural independent
22 telephone coalition, with one member representing a rural service area and
23 one member representing an urban service area;

24 (8) two members from the Kansas cable telecommunications
25 association, with one member representing a rural service area and one
26 member representing an urban service area;

27 (9) one member appointed by the cellular telecommunications
28 industry association;

29 (10) one member representing an electing carrier;

30 (11) one member representing an incumbent local exchange carrier
31 that is a recipient of KUSF funds and serves a rural service area;

32 (12) one member appointed by the Kansas chamber of commerce;

33 (13) one member appointed by the Kansas farm bureau;

34 (14) one member appointed by the national federation of independent
35 business;

36 (15) one member at-large appointed by the governor;

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one member appointed by the Kansas municipal utilities association; and
(18)

- 1 (16) two members appointed by the state independent telephone
- 2 association; ~~and~~
- 3 (17) ~~the following ex-officio members, who all shall be non-voting~~
- 4 members:
- 5 (A) The secretary of commerce or the secretary's designee;
- 6 (B) the commissioner of education or the commissioner's designee;
- 7 and
- 8 (C) the chairperson of the state corporation commission, or the
- 9 chairperson's designee.
- 10 (b) Of the legislative members appointed by the speaker of the house
- 11 of representatives and the president of the senate, the speaker of the house
- 12 of representatives shall appoint one such member from the house of
- 13 representatives to serve as co-chairperson of the task force and the
- 14 president shall appoint one such member from the senate to serve as co-
- 15 chairperson of the task force.
- 16 (c) Members shall be appointed to the task force not later than 45
- 17 days from the effective date of this section. Members of the task force
- 18 must be residents of Kansas and shall consist of members from all four
- 19 congressional districts in Kansas.
- 20 (d) The statewide broadband expansion task force may meet in an
- 21 open meeting at any time upon the call of either co-chairperson of the task
- 22 force. The task force shall meet three to six times. A majority of the voting
- 23 members of the statewide broadband expansion task force constitute a
- 24 quorum. Any action by the task force shall be by motion adopted by a
- 25 majority of the voting members present when there is a quorum. Any
- 26 vacancy on the statewide broadband expansion task force shall be filled by
- 27 appointment in the manner prescribed in this section for the original
- 28 appointment.
- 29 (e) The mission of the statewide broadband expansion task force shall
- 30 be as follows:
- 31 (1) Work collaboratively to evaluate the broadband needs of Kansas
- 32 citizens, businesses, industries, institutions and organizations;
- 33 (2) consider any recent actions by the federal communications
- 34 commission relating to broadband services including, but not limited to,
- 35 the 2018 broadband deployment report, recommendations of the
- 36 broadband deployment advisory committee and any actions to implement
- 37 broadband initiatives using the connect America fund phase II or the
- 38 remote areas fund;
- 39 (3) identify opportunities and potential funding sources to:
- 40 (A) Expand broadband infrastructure and increase statewide access to
- 41 broadband services;
- 42 (B) remove barriers that may hinder deployment of broadband
- 43 infrastructure or access to broadband services; and

1 (C) enable the creation and deployment of new advanced
2 communication technologies;

3 (4) prioritize the expansion of broadband services first to unserved
4 areas of the state and then to underserved areas of the state; and

5 (5) make and submit a report to the legislature concerning all such
6 work and recommendations of the task force. The task force report shall be
7 submitted to the legislature on or before January 31, 2019.

8 (f) The staff of the office of revisor of statutes, the legislative research
9 department and the division of legislative administrative services shall
10 provide assistance as may be requested by the statewide broadband
11 expansion task force.

12 (g) Legislative members of the statewide broadband expansion task
13 force attending meetings authorized by the task force shall be paid
14 amounts provided in K.S.A. 75-3223(e), and amendments thereto. Non-
15 legislative members of the statewide broadband expansion task force may
16 be reimbursed by their appointing authority.

17 (h) The provisions of this section shall expire on June 30, 2019.

18 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
19 publication in the statute book.