

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl D. Holmes at 9:07 a.m. on March 11, 2002 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present: Robert Chapman, Legislative Research
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes
Jo Cook, Administrative Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee: Tom Gleason, Independent Telecommunications Group
Kendall Mikesell, Kansas Rural Independent Telephone Companies
Nelson Krueger, Western Wireless
Janet Buchanan, Kansas Corporation Commission
John Federico, Kansas Cable Telecommunications Assn.
Michael Murray, Sprint

Others attending: See Attached List

HB 2754 - Telecommunications; affordable rates; quality of service; standards

Chairman Holmes reopened the hearing on **HB 2754**. A proposed substitute for the bill was distributed to committee members (Attachment 1). Members of the industry were allowed to submit testimony on the proposed substitute.

Tom Gleason, Independent Telecommunications Group, appeared in support of the proposed substitute (Attachment 2). Mr. Gleason stated that it would protect consumers from excessive rate increases.

Kendall Mikesell, on behalf of the Kansas Rural Independent Telephone Companies, also addressed the committee on the proposed substitute (Attachment 3). Mr. Mikesell told the committee that although the substitute does not reflect everything they originally requested, it is sound legislation that benefits not only their customers, but all of Kansas.

Nelson Krueger, Western Wireless, spoke in support of the proposed substitute.

Janet Buchanan, Chief of Telecommunication for the Kansas Corporation Commission, shared Staff's support of the proposed substitute.

John Federico, Kansas Cable Telecommunication Association, also spoke in support of the proposed substitute.

Michael Murray, Director of Governmental Affairs for Sprint, spoke in support of the proposed substitute (Attachment 4). He stated that their original oppositions had been addressed and they do not oppose the substitute bill.

The conferees responded to questions from the committee.

Chairman Holmes closed the hearing on **HB 2754**.

HB 2100 - Unsolicited consumer telephone calls; do-not call list
HB 2903 - Telemarketer no-call list

Steve Rarrick, Assistant Attorney General for Consumer Protection, distributed a proposed balloon using the language in **SB 296** (Attachment 5). Mr. Rarrick explained the changes and responded to questions from the committee.

The hearing on **HB 2100** and **HB 2903** was closed.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES, Room 526-S Statehouse, at 9:07 a.m. on March 11, 2002.

SB 480 - Retail electric suppliers; service rights in area annexed by city; procedures; compensation when service rights are terminated

Chairman Holmes opened the hearing on **SB 480**.

Stuart Lowry, Corporate Counsel for Kansas Electric Cooperatives, testified in support of **SB 480** (Attachment 6). Mr. Lowry stated this bill was nearly identical to **HB 2661** with an amendment that sets forth the manner in which rates of a deregulated electric cooperative are made available to the general public.

J. C. Long, Director of Government Affairs for UtiliCorp United, appeared in support of **SB 480** (Attachment 7). Mr. Long explained the changes made on the bill in the Senate and stated they now support the bill.

Larry Baer, Assistant Legal Counsel for the League of Kansas Municipalities, addressed the committee in support of **SB 480** (Attachment 8). Mr. Baer stated that this was a compromise piece of legislation introduced at the request of the rural electric cooperatives during the interim. He urged the committee's support without amendment.

Additionally, written testimony in support of **SB 480** was submitted by: Leslie Kaufman, Associate Director of Public Policy for Kansas Farm Bureau, (Attachment 9). Joe Lieber, President of the Kansas Cooperative Council, (Attachment 10), and Doug Lawrence, Vice President of Public Affairs for Westar Energy, (Attachment 11).

The conferees responded to questions from the committee.

Chairman Holmes closed the hearing on **SB 480**.

Vice Chairman Sloan announced there would be a tour of the Bowersock Plant in Lawrence on Friday, March 22. Any member of the committee wishing to attend should let the secretary know.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

The next meeting will be March 12, 2002.