

MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Stan Clark at 9:30 a.m. on February 4, 2004 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Deb Miller, Secretary, KDOT
Colonel William Seck, Kansas Highway Patrol
David Lake, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
Colonel Walter Way, Johnson County Sheriff's Office

Others attending:

See Attached List.

Introduction of Bills

Senator Brownlee explained the various components of a proposed bill regarding school districts that transport natural gas. The bill would amend the manner in which school districts are charged.

Moved by Senator Brownlee, seconded by Senator Emler, the Senate Utilities Committee introduce a bill regarding transporting of natural gas by school districts. Motion carried.

Chairman Clark opened the hearing on **SCR 1616** and asked Senator Emler for preliminary remarks. Senator Emler indicated this resolution is the result of testimony given during the interim to Utilities and Securities Committees. It was the consensus of all parties concerned that Kansas would benefit from having an interoperable communications system.

SCR 1616 - Concurrent resolution supporting KDOT's review of radio communication policies, objectives and plan.

Proponents:

Secretary Deb Miller of Kansas Department of Transportation, outlined a proposed change in KDOT's 800 MHz radio communication policy. To better serve the needs of Kansans, KDOT has proposed an "open" policy for its 800 MHz communication system which would allow state and local public safety entities and possibly third party users the ability to use the infrastructure. It is anticipated that through this "open" approach, a fee-for-service will be considered to provide a funding mechanism which would allow 800 MHz system support, maintenance and enhancement. (Attachment 1)

Colonel William Seck, Kansas Highway Patrol, on behalf of Homeland Security Council and Kansas Highway Patrol, noted communications interoperability is one of the most vital components to ensure the safety and well being of our citizens. Kansas is one of many states that lack statewide interoperability. KDOT initiative addresses that component and other issues that have been discussed a number of years. (Attachment 2)

David Lake, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, noted the primary concern of the Kansas Public Safety Communications Committee is the issue of inter-agency interoperability and to provide statewide coverage and capability there needs to be a single infrastructure. The present 800 MHz system of KDOT has this potential. This concurrent resolution is vital to resolving the wireless communication issues in our state and he noted several reasons. (Attachment 3)

Colonel Walter Way of the Johnson County Sheriff's Office, apprised the committee of the countywide

CONTINUATION SHEET

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radio and data networks in Johnson County and the various agencies that participate in this network. Johnson County and other Kansas City area governments are actively working on plans for the development of interoperable radio and data communications for that region. He explained the agreements entered into by Johnson County with the State of Kansas and wireless telephone carriers. The agreements allow Johnson County to lease tower space from some wireless carriers in some instances and for the State of Kansas and wireless carriers to lease tower space from Johnson County in other instances. (Attachment 4)

Committee members questioned the conferees regarding funding, how such a fund would be established and the handling of such an account.

Closed hearing on **SCR 1616**.

Moved by Senator Emler, seconded by Senator Taddiken, to amend **SCR 1616** to include the Kansas Congressional Delegation and the Kansas State Council of Fire Fighters in the list of those to receive an enrolled copy of **SCR 1616**. Motion carried.

Moved by Senator Emler, seconded by Senator Taddiken, **SCR 1616** be passed favorably as amended. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Senate Utilities Committee is February 5, 2004.

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann McMorris, Secretary

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