

**As Amended by House Committee**

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*Session of 2018*

**HOUSE BILL No. 2701**

By Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications

2-7

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

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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;

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~~ **reside or work in** Kansas and shall consist of  
19 members from all four 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.