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*As Amended by Senate Committee*

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*Session of 2004*

**Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1616**

By Committee on Utilities

1-26

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION supporting the Kansas Department of Transportation’s review of its radio communication policies, objectives and plan.

WHEREAS, Kansas encompasses over 80,000 square miles and is home to over 2.7 million people; and

WHEREAS, Nearly two-thirds of Kansans live in 10 counties with the remainder of the state very sparsely populated; and

WHEREAS, Providing law enforcement and emergency response services in Kansas is often complicated by great distances between communities where services are located; and

WHEREAS, Adequate response to natural or man-made disasters requires coordination of a number of response agencies; and

WHEREAS, The Special Committee on Kansas Security and the Special Committee on Utilities learned during the 2003 interim of the difficulties experienced by public safety and emergency response agencies that currently lack a state-wide interoperable radio communication system; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Transportation operates for its own use and for the Kansas Highway Patrol an 800 MHz radio communication system; and

WHEREAS, Creation and maintenance of a statewide communication system for the use of state and local law enforcement, emergency response, and public health and safety agencies is in the best interest of the citizens of Kansas: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas, the House of Representatives concurring therein:* That the Legislature supports the initiative of the Kansas Department of Transportation to undertake a review of its radio communication policies, objectives and plan in light of the need for a truly statewide radio communication system; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Legislature supports the goal of the Kansas Department of Transportation to revise its communication plan in order to maintain current service standards while enhancing the availability of service; and

1     *Be it further resolved:* That the Legislature supports the goal of the  
2 Kansas Department of Transportation to include in its revised commu-  
3 nication plan a mechanism for assisting state and local law enforcement  
4 and other public health and safety entities meet their needs for access to  
5 a truly statewide communication system; and  
6     *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of State provide an enrolled  
7 copy of this resolution to the Governor of Kansas, the Secretary of Trans-  
8 portation, the Secretary of Administration, the Chair of the Kansas Public  
9 Safety Communications Committee, the Superintendent of the Kansas  
10 Highway Patrol, the Kansas Adjutant General, the Director of the Kansas  
11 Bureau of Investigation, the Kansas Fire Marshal, the Secretary of Cor-  
12 rections, the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks, the Kansas Association of  
13 Chiefs of Police, the Kansas Sheriffs' Association, the Kansas Peace Of-  
14 ficers' Association, the Kansas State Association of Fire Fighters, the Kan-  
15 sas State Fire Chiefs' Association, the Kansas Emergency Medical Techn-  
16 nicians' Association ~~and~~, the Kansas Emergency Medical Services  
17 Association ***the Kansas State Council of Fire Fighters, each member***  
18 ***of the Kansas Congressional Delegation*** and other state and local en-  
19 tities charged with the protection of Kansans.  
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