



State of Kansas Legislative Administrative Services

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House Committee on Federal and State Affairs Testimony House Bill 2067 February 20, 2019

Chairman Barker and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony on House Bill 2067. I am Tom Day, Director of Legislative Administrative Services.

House Bill 2067 requires, by January 1, 2020, that all legislative committees and the chambers of the House of Representatives and Senate, in the Capitol, shall have real-time audio and video live-streaming, accessible to the public on the internet. Currently, all 13 committee rooms in the Capitol have real-time audio live streaming. In addition, the House and Senate Chambers are real-time audio and video live streamed. During the 2018 legislative session the last five committee rooms were brought online for audio streaming. All audio streamed meetings are archived within 30 minutes of their broadcast and can be replayed by anyone through the internet. The bill also requires that broadcasts will be archived for the duration of each biennium that they were recorded. Current practice is to keep all the archived recordings for a longer time period.

The most-costly term used in House Bill 2067, is the word accessible. Whether the author of the legislation is referring to accessible being available on the internet, or accessible being easily used or accessed by people with disabilities could have significant fiscal impact. If the latter is the case, real-time closed-captioning services cost approximately \$3.00 per minute. Oftentimes, a package deal can be contracted that lowers the cost of real-time closed-captioning.

In the bill, committee is defined as any standing committee, subcommittee, conference committee, interim committee, or any committee established by law, the Legislative Coordinating Council, or by the presiding officer of either legislative chamber. Section 1(a), line 6, states the bill is dealing with all legislative committees. However, the definition of committee in the bill states "any committee established by law." There are numerous committees and boards "established by law" that meet in the Statehouse but may not meet in rooms that have live streaming capabilities.

The Director of Legislative Administrative Services shall submit a report to the Legislature on or before January 15, 2021, and every January 15 thereafter. The report shall include the volume of traffic on the legislative website and the number of times the audio and video broadcasts were accessed during the preceding year.

HB 2067 has a very aggressive schedule to outfit all the committee rooms for video live streaming capabilities. The Statehouse underwent 14 years of renovation work to upgrade and restore the entire building. During the renovation cabling was run to each of the committee rooms to allow audio streaming for transparency of the legislative process. However, the cables installed may not be sufficient to video stream each of the rooms.

Recommendations

Amend House Bill 2067, Page 1, Line 5, changing the date from January 1, 2020 to January 1, 2021.

Is Section 1(c) necessary? Committee chairs, House and Senate leadership may not know when there is an equipment failure and the meetings are not being live-streamed.

Is House Bill 2067 necessary? As one conferee testified in 2018, “the current live-streaming process was accomplished through administrative action, this bill ensures that process by placing it into statute.” The Legislature can continue the video live-streaming process by administrative action. Additional appropriation added to the funding of the Legislature’s budget is the necessary action to proceed with video live-streaming.

I will be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.