MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl D. Holmes at 9:10 a.m. on January 18, 2001 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except	ot: Rep. 1	Mary Compton	
	Rep. I	Don Dahl	
	Rep. l	Don Myers	
		Gene O'Brien	
		erry Williams	
Committee staff present:	Lynne Holt, L	egislative Research	
1	Mary Torrenc	Torrence, Revisor of Statutes	
Jo Cook, G		nmittee Secretary	
Conferees appearing before the committee:		Andy Tompkins, Kansas State Department of Education Craig Grant, Kansas National Education Association Rob Hodges, Kansas Telecommunications Industry Association Mark Uhart, Sprint Richard Veach, Pioneer Communications John Federico, Kansas Cable Telecommunications Association Robert Kelly, Kansas Independent College Association	

Others attending: See Attached List

HB 2035 - Establishment of broadband technology-based network for schools, libraries and hospitals.

Chairman Holmes welcomed Andy Tompkins, Kansas State Department of Education Commissioner, who testified in support of <u>HB 2035</u> (Attachment 1). Mr. Tompkins explained that the department strongly supported the concept. Their goals include equal access to educational opportunities, effective utilization of current resources, promoting a vision for the future of education in Kansas and students gaining a competitive edge in the work force. Mr. Tompkins explained that the bottom line was increased bandwidth and shared services (connectivity, training, software, technical support and distance learning potential).

Craig Grant, appearing on behalf of the Unified School Finance Coalition and the Kansas National Education Association, testified in support of <u>HB 2035</u> (Attachment 2). Mr. Grant stated that technology is now a vital part of education and the proposed statewide technology backbone would ensure every Kansas school district has equal access.

Rob Hodges, President of the Kansas Telecommunications Industry Association, appeared as a proponent of <u>HB</u> <u>2035</u> (<u>Attachment 3</u>). He explained that representatives of various telephone, wireless, cable and equipment suppliers worked together and spoke with one voice during the preparation of the bill.

Mark Uhart, of Sprint, served on the Task Force and spoke to the portion of <u>HB 2035</u> that deals with the development of the KAN-ED Board (<u>Attachment 4</u>). Mr. Uhart outlined the specific tasks he felt were essential for the board.

Richard Veach, Pioneer Communications, also served on the Task Force. Mr. Veach expressed his support for the bill.

Appearing on behalf of the Kansas Cable Telecommunications Association, John Federico testified in support of <u>HB</u> <u>2035</u> (<u>Attachment 5</u>). Mr. Federico expressed the industry's commitment to "connecting" Kansas schools and libraries and that the delivery of the network is best served by competing private entities.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES, Room 526-S Statehouse, at 9:10 a.m. on January 18, 2001.

Executive Director of the Kansas Independent College Association, Bob Kelly, appeared in support of <u>HB 2035</u> (<u>Attachment 6</u>) and requested an amendment to include private, independent colleges.

Written testimony (Attachment 7) was provided by the Kansas Hospital Association in support of HB 2035.

The conferees responded to questions from the committee. Chairman Holmes closed the hearing on <u>HB 2035</u> and opened the floor for debate.

Rep. Alldritt moved to strike the words "subject to approval of the governor" from page 4, line 22. Rep. Kuether seconded the motion, motion failed.

Rep. Alldritt moved to add the words "and any agency of the state of Kansas" on page 3, line 14. Rep. Kuether seconded the motion, motion carried.

Rep. Alldritt moved to change page 2, line 6 to include "unless private sector facilities are not otherwise made available." Rep. Kuether seconded the motion, motion failed.

Rep. Krehbiel moved to strike Section 2 (c)(4) and add, under Section 2 (e)(2) the words "Kansas educational institution, as defined in K.S.A. 2000 Supp. 74-32,120,". Rep. Kuether seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rep. Loyd moved to recommend **HB 2035**, as amended, favorable for passage. Rep. Dreher seconded the motion. Motion carried. Rep. Krehbiel will carry the bill.

Meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 22, 2001.