

MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Pat Apple at 9:30 A.M. on January 20, 2005 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent:

Committee staff present: Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes Office
Diana Lee, Revisor of Statutes Office
Casey Kemp, Senator Emler's Intern
Ann McMorris, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Janet Bathurst, Manager, S&A Telephone Company, Allen, Kansas
Michael Kirksey, General Manager, Emerging Technologies, Dallas, Texas

Others attending: See attached list

Briefing on Telecommunications for Rural Areas

Janet Bathurst, manager of S&A Telephone Company, Allen, Kansas, representing the 36 Kansas Rural Independent Telephone Companies, briefed the committee on the accomplishments achieved and the difficulties faced in providing service to everyone in their sparsely populated areas. After showing a 15 minute DVD picturing various rural independent telephone companies, their service areas and comments from Congressman Jerry Moran and others, Ms. Bathurst presented statistics and information on the concerns and future plans for rural areas in Kansas. (Attachment 1)

A map of the Kansas Independent Broadband areas was handed out to the committee. KCC agreed to provide a map showing an overlay of all companies providing this service in Kansas. (Attachment 2)

Presentation on Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)

Michael Kirksey, general manager-Emerging Technologies, Dallas, briefed the committee on the background of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). This technology allows a person to make telephone calls using a broadband internet connection instead of a regular (or analog) phone line. Mr. Kirksey had a powerpoint presentation which covered the technical features and FCC regulations on VoIP technology. (Attachment 3)

Introduction of Bill

Ed Jaskinia, Realtor from Kansas City, Kansas, requested introduction of a bill to allow submeters in apartment complexes in order to charge the tenants fairly for water usage.

Moved by Senator Reitz, Seconded by Senator Pyle, approve introduction of legislation to allow submeters in apartment complexes. Motion carried.

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann McMorris, Secretary

Attachments - 3