

MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jay Emler at 9:30 A.M. on January 24, 2007 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent:

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Tatiana Lin, KSU Legislative Fellow  
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes  
Ann McMorris, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dennis Priest, SRS  
Marge Petty, KCC

Others in attendance: See attached list

Subcommittee

Chairman Emler announced he had appointed a Subcommittee to work **SB 20** - Kansas Underground Utility Prevention Act. Members are: Senator Apple, chair; Senators Taddiken and Francisco.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Senator Reitz, seconded by Senator Petersen, the minutes of the Senate Utilities Committee meetings held on January 10, 2007, January 16, 2007, January 17, 2007 and January 18, 2007, be approved. Motion carried.

Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) Update

Dennis Priest, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, briefed the Committee on the funding for this program by Federal Block Grant and appropriation of state funds by the legislature. LIEAP is a Federal program administered by SRS that provides a one-time a year benefit to eligible low-income households to assist them in paying their heating bill. He reviewed the basic criteria to establish eligibility, the number of applications received and approved, and the table of income guidelines. (Attachment 1)

Committee questioned why many applications were not approved and reasons for rejecting them. Mr. Priest agreed to provide information from their database on the rejected applications.

Cold Weather Rule

Marge Petty, Kansas Corporation Commission, explained the purpose of the Cold Weather Rule and reviewed the customer's responsibility, the Utility company's responsibility and the KCC's responsibility. A five year comparison on disconnects by the major gas and electric service companies was provided and a listing of available assistance programs for housing and energy related needs of Kansas citizens. Ms. Petty also discussed the comparison chart on statistical complaint data from KCC calendar years 1996 and 2006. (Attachment 2)

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann McMorris, Secretary

Attachments - 2