

Approved: February 24, 2004
Date

Carl Dean Holmes

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl D. Holmes at 9:08 a.m. on February 16, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Eric Carter
Representative Bonnie Huy
Representative William Kassebaum
Representative Annie Kuether

Committee staff present: Mary Galligan, Legislative Research
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes
Jo Cook, Administrative Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee: Edwin Geer, Kansas Department of Transportation

Others attending: See Attached List

HB 2756 - Public safety communication system; purchase of equipment to lease to public safety agencies; issuance of revenue bonds

Chairman Holmes opened the hearing on **HB 2756**.

Edwin Geer, Communications Coordinator for the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), appeared in support of **HB 2756** (Attachment 1). Mr. Geer told the committee that KDOT has been exploring new opportunities for providing communications to both current and future users of the statewide 800 MHz radio communications system that has been maintained and operated by the agency. This bill establishes a communication system revolving fund for leasing equipment and access to the equipment as well as issuance of revenue bonds for the operation of the fund.

Judy Moler, General Counsel for the Kansas Association of Counties, submitted written testimony in support of **HB 2756** (Attachment 2).

Mr. Geer responded to questions from the committee. Additionally, Mr. Bill Watts, Chief of Operations Management for KDOT, responded to questions.

Chairman Holmes announced that the bill would be worked on Thursday and closed the hearing on **HB 2756**.

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 17, 2004.

HOUSE UTILITIES COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: February 16, 2004

NAME	REPRESENTING
Ken Justice, Captain	KHP
Edwin Geer	KDOT
Jaci Vogel	KDOT
Bill Watts	KDOT
Tom Burgess	RTMC
Bob Sage	Rose Hill PD / Butler County Emergency Services Assoc.
Tyler Brewer	Augusta Department of Safety
Kim Gullett	LKM
Kathy Damon	Fixins Communications
Tom Day	KCC
STEVE KEARNEY	ALLTEL
Rebecca Floyd	KDFA
Tom Brund	GBPA
Chris Wilson	KS Governmental Consulting
DICK CARTER	RTG

KANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DEB MILLER, SECRETARY

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES

REGARDING HOUSE BILL 2756 COMMUNICATION SYSTEM EQUIPMENT LEASE

February 16, 2004

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am Ed Geer, Communications Coordinator for the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 2756 this morning.

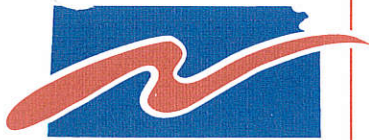
KDOT has been exploring new opportunities for providing communications to the current and future users of the statewide 800 MHz radio communications system operated and maintained by this agency. In a recent presentation given by KDOT to interested members of the legislature, stakeholders, as well as the Governor's Homeland Security Council, a change in KDOT's 800 MHz radio communication policy was presented and discussed similar to the presentation made to this committee on February 13, 2004. To actually implement this proposed statewide system enhancing public safety and Kansas security requires the enabling legislation found in House Bill 2756.

House Bill 2756 established a state communication system enterprise or revolving fund and authorizes prices for leasing communication system equipment and access to such equipment. The bill further provides for the issuance of revenue bonds as necessary for the operation of the fund. Debt service for such bonds is to be paid from the lease revenues. The purpose of this bill is to permit the enhancement of the KDOT communications system to make it available to public safety agencies. In addition, the infrastructure, to the extent that capacity exists, will be made available to others.

In an effort to greatly enhance our ability to serve the needs of Kansans, KDOT has proposed a change to current policies concerning how the statewide 800 MHz radio communications system is utilized. KDOT is proposing implementation of an "open" policy to improve overall utilization of the 800 MHz radio infrastructure. This agency strongly believes this "open" policy approach will greatly enhance the ability for governmental agencies (both state and local), public safety entities, and potential private organizations to take advantage of current KDOT 800 MHz resources to meet their needs through utilization of both 800 MHz and non-800 MHz communication equipment.

It is anticipated that various funding methods for this "open" approach will be necessary to provide the appropriate support, maintenance, and enhancements to the 800 MHz radio system. Currently, KDOT envisions utilizing a fee-for-service program to help provide a funding mechanism for the statewide 800 MHz radio communications system in addition to the implementation of an enterprise fund. The enterprise fund will be utilized to provide the opportunity to governmental agencies (both state and local) and public safety entities to acquire 800 MHz radio equipment and participate in the system by leasing the equipment through KDOT.

KDOT truly appreciates the support shown by this committee and other parties to the "open" policy concept discussed previously for utilization of the statewide 800 MHz communication system. This "open" approach provides rare opportunities for many governmental (state and local), public safety entities, and private organizations to accomplish their communication goals while enhancing their ability to better serve the needs of Kansans. KDOT is in strong support of HB 2756 and requests your favorable consideration of the bill.



KANSAS
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES

Written Testimony on HB 2756
Before the House Utilities Committee
By Judy A. Moler
General Counsel/Legislative Services Director
February 16, 2004

The Kansas Association of Counties in conjunction with the League of Kansas Municipalities supports HB 2756. This bill could be used to make the statewide E 9-1-1 system a reality. The bill would allow the Secretary of Transportation to purchase and lease to public safety entities, including local governments, equipment which would aid in providing public safety at the local level.

The Kansas Association of Counties and the League of Kansas Municipalities urge you to act favorably on HB 2756.

The Kansas Association of Counties, an instrumentality of member counties under K.S.A. 19-2690, provides legislative representation, educational and technical services and a wide range of informational services to its member counties. Inquiries concerning this testimony should be directed to Randy Allen or Judy Moler by calling (785) 272-2585.

6206 SW 9th Terrace
Topeka, KS 66615
785•272•2585
Fax 785•272•3585
email kac@ink.org

HOUSE UTILITIES
DATE: 2-16-04
ATTACHMENT 2