

MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jay Scott Emler at 9:30 A.M. on February 16, 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  
Ann McMorris, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Richard Lawson, Sprint, KC  
David Kerr, President, SBC  
Jeff Wick, Nex-Tech, Hays

Others in attendance: See attached list

Chairman opened hearing on:

**SB 120 Telecommunications, regulation thereof, KUSF**

**Proponents:**

Richard Lawson, Manager, Regulatory and Legislative Public Affairs, Sprint, Kansas City, Missouri, presented the viewpoints of Sprint on various sections of S.B. 120. (Attachment 1)

David Kerr, President, SBC Kansas, conveyed the support of SBC for **SB 120** as a good vehicle to bring Kansans much closer to realizing the benefits of full competition. Updating the state's telecom laws to make technology neutral will benefit customers in Kansas and should be a top priority of the state. He noted with passage of **SB 120** companies like SBC would still be far more regulated than our competitors, but this bill is a needed step in the evolution of communications policy. The pricing flexibility offered by **SB 120** will provide consumers the value of additional products, better pricing packages and more innovative services. (Attachment 2)

**Opponents:**

Jeff Wick, Chief Operating Officer, Nex-Tech, Hays chief operating officer, Nex-Tech, Hays, opposed **SB 120** since enactment of this bill would eliminate the ability of the Kansas Corporation Commission to regulate telecommunications pricing throughout the state. Without the KCC's ability to oversee pricing, the competitive scope for telecommunications services will dramatically change with the potential elimination of competition for basic local telephone service, broadband Internet and additional advanced services in the State of Kansas. Consumer choice, competition and the public interest will best be served if the committee rejects **SB 120**. (Attachment 3)

Chairman announced the hearing on **SB 120** will be continued on February 17, 2005. At that time, the other opponents will be given an opportunity to present their testimony.

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann McMorris, Secretary

Attachments - 3.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Utilities Committee at 9:30 A.M. on February 16, 2005 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.