

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Tom Sloan at 9:09 a.m. on March 13, 2000 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. Carl Holmes
 Rep. Gene O'Brien

Committee staff present: Lynne Holt, Legislative Research Department
 Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes
 Jo Cook, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Richard Veach, Pioneer Communications
 Don Hieman, DISC
 Greg Rasmussen, Department of Education
 Doug Heacock, KANREN
 Sal Tayani, Department of Education

Others attending: See Attached Guest List

Vice-Chairman Sloan drew the committee's attention to items distributed. Copies of Doug Heacock's, Executive Director of KANREN, March 1 presentation ([Attachment 1](#)) and a letter from Kendall Micksell from Southern Kansas Telephone Company regarding **HB 2743** ([Attachment 2](#)) were distributed.

Sub HB 2591 - State education technology network, establishment

Richard Veach, General Manager of Pioneer Communications, testified in support of **Sub HB 2591** ([Attachment 3](#)). Mr. Veach outlined the positions and experiences of rural telephone companies who already provide high speed Internet access to schools and libraries in Kansas. He also recommended several amendments that would address their concerns.

Don Hieman, Director of the Division of Information Systems and Communications (DISC), testified in support of **Sub HB 2591** ([Attachment 4](#)). Mr. Hieman provided information on DISC and KAN-WIN, both of which are part of the proposed backbone of KAN-ED.

Mr. Greg Rasmussen, Kansas Department of Education, testified as a proponent of **Sub HB 2591** ([Attachment 5, pages 1 thru 3](#)). Mr. Rasmussen explained the vision, responsibility and overview of the KAN-ED program.

Doug Heacock, Executive Director of KAN-REN, provided testimony in support of **Sub HB 2591** ([Attachment 5, pages 4 thru 6a](#)). Mr. Heacock outlined the goals and benefits of the KAN-ED program.

Mr. Sal Tayani, Chief Information Officer for the Kansas Department of Education, testified in support of **Sub HB 2591** ([Attachment 5, pages 6b thru 7](#)). Mr. Tayani explained the support role of the Department of Education and stated that time was of the essence in passing the KAN-ED bill.

The conferees responded to questions from Rep. McClure, Rep. Myers, Rep. Kuether, Rep. Morrison, Rep. Vining, Rep. Krehbiel, Rep. Dahl, and Rep. Sloan.

The hearing on **Sub HB 2591** was recessed until Tuesday, March 14.

Meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 14, 2000 at 9:00 a.m.