

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Brownlee at 8:30 a.m. on February 12, 2001 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

April Holman, Legislative Research Department
Robert Nugent, Revisor of Statutes
Lea Gerard, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending:

See attached list.

The committee discussed Content and Governance regarding the KAN-ED bill **SB 48**:

After much discussion, Senator Kerr stated that the important thing from the Committee's point of view is not what the content is and should be but to make sure we have a structure that will allow for the ongoing provision and appropriate content. Content will be very different in five years than what it is today. We need to have good and flexible structure that will allow for the right content to be available. I am not sure how useful it is for us to talk about what it is although beyond a elementary understanding the real issue is whether we can get the right structure.

Senator Emler concurred and communicated that in the "*Report of the State Education Technology-Based Network Task Force to the 2001 Kansas Legislature*," (a copy is on file in the Legislative Research Department), Page 15-17 states in a broad sense provides better internet access distance learning opportunities, curriculum enrichment and research, and special services like E-mail and web hosting for interested users.

The Committee discussed governance for KAN-ED and the direction the bill proposed regarding creating a new entity. In the proposed bills, the new entity would be the KAN-ED board which would hire the CEO and appoint advisory committees on technical matters and on content. However, there was concern about creating another bureaucracy and the fact that there is an entity in state government that could perform this function with their expertise. The advisory committees that are envisioned in this bill would get industry more involved and could be advisory to the KAN-ED board rather than to the new separate mini bureaucracy. The committee discussed what role ITEC would have in all this because the statutes that created the information technology governance are not very old and would be appropriate.

The Committee requested that the following three balloon amendments be made for **SB 48**:

- 1) Designate ITEC the governing entity. DISC would staff the needs of the KAN-ED Advisory Board and the Advisory Board would be required to advise ITEC on a quarterly basis of technical content and policy issues.
- 2) Section 4. (a) (5) that one member shall represent a small telecommunications service provider and one member shall represent a large telecommunications service provider.
- 3) Section 4. (a) (7) add two additional residents to represent education K through 12.

The Committee adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2001 at 8:30 a.m.