

Approved: April 2, 2002
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl D. Holmes at 9:10 a.m. on February 19, 2002 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Jim Yonally, Verizon Wireless

Others attending: See Attached List

HB 2754 - Telecommunications; affordable rates; quality of service; standards

Chairman Holmes reconvened the hearing on **HB 2754**.

Jim Yonally, on behalf of Verizon Wireless, appeared in opposition to **HB 2754** (Attachment 1). Mr. Yonally addressed several areas of concern, including the size of the subsidy, the standard for KUSF funding, differences between rural basic charges and urban basic charges and increasing the size of the KUSF.

Chairman Holmes opened the floor for questions from the committee to any of the conferees. Representative Krehbiel requested that a statement be distributed that rebutted several assertions made by conferees (Attachment 2). In response to questions from the committee to Corporation Commission Staff as to the definition of universal service as it addresses equal access and does the commission have the authority to impose 'quality of service standards', Eva Powers stated that it appears to the Commission that they are pre-empted on this issue by FCC rules.

Chairman Holmes closed the hearing on **HB 2754**.

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 am.

The next meeting will be February 20, 2002.