

KANSAS OFFICE *of*  
**REVISOR *of* STATUTES**

LEGISLATURE *of* THE STATE *of* KANSAS  
*Legislative Attorneys transforming ideas into legislation.*

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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Chairman Olson and Members of the Committee on Utilities  
From: Matt Sterling, Assistant Revisor of Statutes  
Date: March 20, 2018  
RE: House Bill 2701

House Bill 2701 would establish the statewide broadband expansion planning task force. The task force would consist of 16 voting members, as follows:

- Two representatives appointed by the speaker with one member from the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications;
- One representative appointed by the minority leader;
- Two senators appointed by the president with one member from the Committee on Utilities;
- One senator appointed by the minority leader;
- One member appointed by the Kansas Association of Counties;
- One member appointed by the Kansas League of Municipalities;
- One member appointed by the Kansas Rural Independent Telephone Coalition;
- One member from the Cable Telecommunications Association;
- One member appointed by the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association;
- One member representing an electing carrier;
- One member representing an incumbent local exchange carrier that receives KUSF support and serves a rural area;
- One member appointed by the Kansas electric cooperatives;
- One member appointed by the State Independent Telephone Association; and
- One member appointed by the Kansas Independent Fiber Association.

The task force would also consist of five non-voting, ex-officio members, as follows:

- The Secretary of Transportation or the secretary's designee;
- The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;
- The chairperson of the Kansas Corporation Commission or the chairperson's designee
- One member appointed by the Kansas Hospital Association; and
- One member at-large appointed by the Governor.

The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate would each appoint a co-chairperson of the task force. Members of the task force must be Kansas residents and representation must be from of all four congressional districts in Kansas. The mission of the task force would be to:

- Develop an approach for defining and evaluating the broadband needs of Kansas citizens, businesses, industries, institutions, and organizations;
- Identify risks, issues and constraints associated with a statewide broadband expansion project and develop corresponding risk mitigation and resolution strategies;
- Consider recent FCC actions including the 2018 broadband deployment report, recommendations made by the broadband deployment advisory committee, and any actions to implement broadband initiatives using CAF phase II or the remote areas fund;
- Identify opportunities and funding sources to expand broadband infrastructure and statewide access, remove barriers that may hinder broadband initiatives, and enable the creation and deployment of new advanced telecommunications technologies;
- Develop criteria for prioritizing expansion of broadband services across Kansas; and
- Propose future activities and documentation required to complete the statewide broadband expansion plan.

The statewide broadband expansion task force would be required to submit a report to the Legislature on or before January 31, 2019, of their findings and recommendations. The Office of Revisor of Statutes, the Kansas Legislative Research Department, and Legislative Administrative Services would provide assistance to the task force as requested. Only legislative members of the task force would be entitled to compensation under K.S.A. 75-3223(e). Non-legislative members could be reimbursed by their appointing authority.

The bill would take effect upon publication in the Kansas register and the provisions of the bill would expire on June 30, 2019.