

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TAXATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wagle at 9:00 a.m. on February 21, 2000, in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. Howell - excused
 Rep. Wilk - excused

Committee staff present: Chris Courtwright, Legislative Research Department
 April Holman, Legislative Research Department
 Don Hayward, Revisor of Statutes
 Shirley Sicilian, Department of Revenue
 Ann Deitcher, Committee Secretary
 Edith Beaty, Taxation Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Mark Beshears, Sprint
 Michael Reece, AT&T
 Robert Fasl, Southwestern Bell
 Jim Ludwig, Western Resources

HB 2589 - income tax credit for property tax paid by telecommunications companies

The Chair introduced Mark Beshears of Sprint who spoke as a proponent to **HB 2589**. (Attachment 1).

Representative Sharp asked Mr. Beshears what the category was of the others who provide telecommunication services if they're not being taxed the same way as Sprint. He said they were treated as commercial and industrial property tax owners. They're classified at 25% – they're not classified as a public utility.

Michael Reece representing AT&T, spoke next to the Committee in support of **HB 2589**. (Attachment 2).

Chairperson Wagle suggested to the Committee that they examine the figures in paragraph 3 on page 2.

Appearing next as a proponent of **HB 2589** was Robert Fasl, Director of Property Tax for Southwestern Bell in Kansas. (Attachment 3).

Jim Ludwig of Western Resources spoke to the Committee in favor of the passage of **HB 2589**. (Attachment 4). He offered an amendment (attached) to **HB 2589** that would extend the income tax credits to public utilities for any new utility property, i.e., property acquired, built or put in service after January 1, 2000.

The Chair said that she would like to put **HB 2589** in a subcommittee that would really be willing to look at it in depth and work it. She asked for those who would be interested in serving on this subcommittee to let her know.

Representative Edmonds made a motion to adopt a bill for non-profit humane societies. It was seconded by Representative Tomlinson and carried on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 22, 2000.