

Approved: 2-12-02
Approved as amended: 4-10-02

MINUTES OF THE E-GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Deena Horst at 3:38 p.m. on February 5, 2002, in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except Representatives Cook and Faber, who were excused.

Committee staff present:

Robert Chapman, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes' Office
Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes' Office
Gary Deeter, Committee Secretary
Dean Samuelson, Assistant Secretary

Others attending: See attached sheet.

The minutes for the January 24, 2002, meeting were approved as printed. (Motion, Representative Gatewood, second Representative Williams)

Dr. Lorne Phillips, Director, Center for Health and Environmental Statistics, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), appeared before the Committee to speak in favor of **HB 2667**, a bill which he said will ensure that the Kansas Vital Statistics Act conforms with the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act to use electronic and digital signatures for vital records. (Attachment 1) He reviewed the agency's history in collecting data electronically, saying that for over a decade KDHE has utilized technology for recording vital statistics. He noted that 98% of all births in Kansas are collected and submitted electronically. The present bill, he stated, will authorize electronic or digital signatures for all vital statistics, such as signatures on death certificates by physicians and funeral directors, explaining that such timely reporting will help the Social Security Administration meet its goal to process all death certificates within 48 hours; the present lag time in some states is 6-8 months. A letter of support was distributed from the Kansas Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association (Attachment 2), and a fiscal note from the Division of the Budget was made available which stated that **HB 2667** would have no impact on the State General Fund. (Attachment 3) Answering questions, Dr. Phillips said the bill would save time for the agency, but not much money. There was no opposition to the bill.

Tom Winters, Chairman, Information Network of Kansas (INK) Board of Directors, before proceeding with his testimony, introduced other members of the board: Dean Carlson, Secretary, Kansas Department of Transportation; Charles Ranson, President, Kansas, Inc.; Marvin Maydew, INK Treasurer; and Robert Knapp, General *Manager**, INK, and President/CEO of the Kansas Information Consortium. Mr. Winters traced the beginnings of what has become AccessKansas, the official state portal for digital services. (Attachment 4) He said that INK was created by **SB 683** in 1990 to create wider access to state government. Subsequent law (K.S.A. 74-9301 through 74-9308) created a quasi-government agency with 5 public and 5 private board members, all unpaid, who, in 1991, contracted with the Kansas Information Consortium (KIC) to build and maintain a statewide network serving all state agencies and the public. KIC, as a private company, fronted the capital to build the network; state agencies were urged to cooperate by providing access. Mr. Winters said that INK/KIC is supported entirely by fees at no expense to the taxpayer, the fee structure being established *by contract* on a case-by-case basis. If a fee has historically been charged to the public for a service, INK usually incorporates that fee into their charge. Some fees charged to agencies are absorbed by the agency; others are passed on to the consumer. Some fees (Web development, *KBI Offender List*) are waived. He noted that in 2001 the Gartner Group published a report showing the national average for state IT expenditures was 6.2% of the state's budget; Kansas' expenditures are only 2.8%. *Center for Digital Government* recently designated Kansas the #1 Digital State in the U.S.

Answering questions, Mr. Winters said INK meetings are announced in the Kansas Register. Representative Levinson suggested they be posted on AccessKansas. Answering further questions regarding fee structure, Robert Knapp, as General Manager for INK, said fees are variable, depending on the fee's history, the agency's needs and costs, and the INK Board's decision. He said that regardless of whether the service provided is fee-associated or free, there is a cost to KIC to provide the service. He said all state government web sites are hosted without charge; funds come from agency fees and from businesses who have historically paid fees to interact with government (UCC filings, truck permits, driver's license records). He said fees for *certain* legislative services (*e.g.*, Lobbyist-in-a-Box) are set

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by *contract with the Revisor of Statute's Office**, and that *6 cents of each transaction* is returned to the legislature. He noted that *all except statutory* fees are waived for all legislative members.

Answering further questions, Charles Ranson, President, Kansas, Inc., said INK has no employees, but *has an office at Kansas, Inc.* as authorized by the legislature. *KIC has 17 FTEs (Full-Time Equivalent)*, and these FTEs are paid through a contract between INK and KIC. He said because of the increased complexity of services provided by KIC, INK is advertising for an Executive Director as a liaison between the INK board, Kansas Inc., KIC., and the business community. Mr. Knapp said that fee contracts are re-evaluated on a yearly basis. Mr. Winters said that the subsequent contract for Network Manager *presently held by KIC* will be based on an RFP and submitted for bids, as was the original contract in 1990. Representative Gatewood requested INK provide the committee with financial reports on KIC, especially since it is connected with the National Information Consortium, a publicly-traded company. Mr. Winters said INK's records are subject to the open-records statutes, but they are not published on-line.

The Chair reminded members of the sub-committees meetings on Thursday, February 7, the KAN-ED presentation on Tuesday, February 12, and the hearing on **HB 2719** on Thursday, February 14, 2002. The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

**Italics* indicate changes requested by INK and Kansas, Inc. to correct inaccuracies in their reporting.