

Approved: February 24, 2004
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl D. Holmes at 9:08 a.m. on February 16, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Eric Carter
Representative Bonnie Huy
Representative William Kassebaum
Representative Annie Kuether

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Edwin Geer, Kansas Department of Transportation

Others attending: See Attached List

HB 2756 - Public safety communication system; purchase of equipment to lease to public safety agencies; issuance of revenue bonds

Chairman Holmes opened the hearing on **HB 2756**.

Edwin Geer, Communications Coordinator for the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), appeared in support of **HB 2756** (Attachment 1). Mr. Geer told the committee that KDOT has been exploring new opportunities for providing communications to both current and future users of the statewide 800 MHz radio communications system that has been maintained and operated by the agency. This bill establishes a communication system revolving fund for leasing equipment and access to the equipment as well as issuance of revenue bonds for the operation of the fund.

Judy Moler, General Counsel for the Kansas Association of Counties, submitted written testimony in support of **HB 2756** (Attachment 2).

Mr. Geer responded to questions from the committee. Additionally, Mr. Bill Watts, Chief of Operations Management for KDOT, responded to questions.

Chairman Holmes announced that the bill would be worked on Thursday and closed the hearing on **HB 2756**.

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 17, 2004.