

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Representative Ralph Tanner at 9:00 a.m. on January 24, 2000 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: A quorum was present.

Committee staff present: Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department
Linda Taylor, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Doug Heacock, Executive Director, KANREN

Others attending: See Attached List

The joint meeting of the House Committees on Education and Utilities was called to order by Representative Ralph Tanner, Chairman. Chairman Tanner explained that **HB 2591**- State education technology network (KAN-ED) established, is the bill we will be considering.

Representative Tanner welcomed members of the House Utilities Committee, then introduced Doug Heacock, Executive Director of Kansas Research and Education Network.

Mr. Heacock proceeded with a slide presentation explaining the need for a technology network in the state of Kansas. He presented an overview of the proposal, pointing out the major aspects of the proposed KAN-ED bill. (See Handout 1) Benefits of the program are a higher quality of education, an industrial competitive edge, the possibility of better paying high skilled jobs, equal access to electronic information, and a support tool for lifelong learning. He explained the process which produced the proposal, beginning with a Task Force that was formed in 1998. He stated that the major challenge to creating such a network is funding. He thanked the committee and offered to stand for questions.

Questions and concerns among the committee members included who would pay for the project and the technical aspects of building such a network.

Lynne Holt, Principal Analyst for the Kansas Legislative Research Department gave the committees a copy of the full text of **HB 2951** (Attachment 2), a section by section briefing on the content of the bill (Attachment 3), a copy of a memorandum from the Legislative Research Department about the development of a state technology network (Attachment 4), and a report prepared by the Special Committee on Education (Attachment 5). She presented testimony showing why Kansas would benefit from a technology network, what the benefits would be, and the conclusions of the Special Committee on Education.

Representative Tanner thanked the conferees for appearing before the committee. He announced that he had appointed a five-member sub-committee to study the bill and report back to the committee. The members of the sub-committee are Representative Morrison, chairman, Representative Crow, Representative Light, Representative Mason, and Representative Phelps.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.