

Report of the Special Committee on Utilities to the 2018 Kansas Legislature

CHAIRPERSON: Senator Robert Olson

VICE-CHAIRPERSON: Representative Joe Seiwert

OTHER MEMBERS: Senators Tom Hawk and Mike Petersen; and Representatives Randy Garber, Annie Kuether, and Mark Schreiber

STUDY TOPIC

Study and Make Recommendations Regarding Rural Broadband Deployment

The Committee is directed to identify ways to get broadband services deployed to all Kansans at affordable rates, including, but not limited to, discussion of the following topics:

- Consider incentives for broadband deployment in unserved and underserved areas of the state;
- Consider whether guidelines should exist regarding overbuilding an existing provider in order to reach and affordably serve unserved and underserved Kansans;
- Define “unserved” and “underserved” in terms of broadband speeds, affordability, and length of time a digital divide between urban and rural areas should exist because advanced delivery technologies are not installed;
- Establish what technologies should be supported as appropriate to deliver reliable, affordable broadband in Kansas; and
- Identify what actions the State can take to facilitate development of competitive broadband markets in rural areas, including incentives for partnerships between communities, rural electric cooperatives, incumbent providers, and alternative providers.

Special Committee on Utilities

REPORT

The Special Committee on Utilities was not convened during the 2017 Interim.