

Proponent Testimony on HB 2237
House Committee on Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications
Thursday, February 16, 2023

Chairman Delperdang and Members of the Committee:

I am Michael J. Ruffin, Regional VP of External and Legislative Affairs on behalf of AT&T in support of HB 2237 with a proposed amendment.

This measure would amend K.S.A. 17-1902, which applies to corporations that provide telecommunications services and occupy the public right-of-way (“ROW”).

AT&T has been operating in Kansas for about 143 years and our facilities exist within the ROW in more than 90 Kansas counties. Though we have grown beyond the offering of just plain old telephone services (pots) our new and existing infrastructure must be protected as the demand on public ROWs increase, they become crowded, and our state sees continued development and ever more infrastructure projects.

AT&T’s proposed amendment would apply to the provisions of K.S.A. 17-1902(l), which requires removal, adjustment or relocation of a provider’s facilities upon request by, and at no cost to, a municipality. The amendment would require municipalities to give a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days advance, written notice to comply with any such requested removal, relocation, or adjustment of the provider’s facilities. The amendment also introduces specific provisions applicable to a municipality’s request for removal, relocation, or adjustment of a provider’s facilities within the public right of way where the construction or maintenance activities are related to improvements being made for a private benefit.

I appreciate your time and thank you for allowing me to address the committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Ruffin
AT&T Kansas