

KANSAS OFFICE *of*  
**REVISOR *of* STATUTES**

LEGISLATURE *of* THE STATE *of* KANSAS  
*Legislative Attorneys transforming ideas into legislation.*

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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications  
From: Nick Myers, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Date: February 14, 2018  
Subject: House Bill 2701

House Bill 2701 would establish the statewide broadband expansion task force. The task force would consist of 23 voting members, as follows:

- Four representatives appointed by the speaker with one member from the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications and one member from the Committee on Commerce;
- One representative appointed by the minority leader;
- Two senators appointed by the president with one member from the Committee on Utilities and one member from the Committee on Commerce;
- One senator appointed by the minority leader;
- One member appointed by the Kansas Association of Counties;
- One member appointed by the Kansas League of Municipalities;
- Two members appointed by the Kansas Rural Independent Telephone Coalition with one member representing a rural service area and one member representing an urban service area;
- Two members from the Cable Telecommunications Association with one member representing a rural service area and one member representing an urban service area;
- One member appointed by the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association;
- One member representing an electing carrier;
- One member representing an incumbent local exchange carrier that receives KUSF support and serves a rural area;
- One member appointed by the Kansas Chamber of Commerce;
- One member appointed by the Kansas Farm Bureau;
- One member appointed by the National Federation of Independent Business;
- One member appointed by the governor; and
- Two members appointed by the State Independent Telephone Association.

The task force would consist of three non-voting members:

- The Secretary of Commerce or the secretary's designee;
- The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee; and
- The chairperson of the Kansas Corporation Commission or the chairperson's designee.

The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate would each appoint a co-chairperson of the task force. Members of the task force must be Kansas residents and representation must be from of all four congressional districts in Kansas. The task force would be required to meet three to six times. The mission of the task force would be to:

- Evaluate the broadband needs of Kansas citizens, businesses, industries, institutions, and organizations;
- Consider recent FCC actions including the 2018 broadband deployment report, recommendations made by the broadband deployment advisory committee, and any actions to implement broadband initiatives using CAF phase II or the remote areas fund;
- Identify opportunities and funding sources to expand broadband infrastructure and statewide access, remove barriers that may hinder broadband initiatives, and enable the creation and deployment of new advanced telecommunications technologies; and
- Prioritize expansion of broadband first to unserved areas of the state then to underserved areas of the state.

The statewide broadband expansion task force would be required to submit a report to the Legislature on or before January 31, 2019, of their findings and recommendations. The Office of Revisor of Statutes, the Kansas Legislative Research Department, and Legislative Administrative Services would be required to provide assistance as requested by the task force. Only legislative members of the task force would be entitled to compensation under K.S.A. 75-3223. Non-legislative members may be reimbursed by their appointing authority.