

MINUTES

Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

10:00 AM

Room 151, State Capitol

Little Rock, AR

Committee members present: Senators Blake Johnson, Co-Chair; Breanne Davis, Lance Eads, Ricky Hill, and Bill Sample **Representatives** Stephen Meeks, Co-Chair; Stan Berry, Karilyn Brown, Jim Dotson, Les Eaves, Fredrick Love, Roger Lynch, Keith Slape, and David Whitaker

Non-committee members present: Senators Jane English, Missy Irvin, and Mark Johnson **Representatives** Cameron Cooper, Denise Ennett, David Hillman, Grant Hodges, Jack Ladyman, Tippi McCullough, Dwight Tosh, and Danny Watson

Senator Johnson called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve November 6, 2019, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit C]

Senator Hill made a motion for approval of the meeting minutes of January 15, 2020. Senator Sample seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Presentation and Discussion on Interim Study Proposal 2019-144 [Exhibits D1-D2]

Ms. Anne Laidlaw, Director, Arkansas Building Authority (ABA), Mr. Nolan Motherwood, Department Transformation and Shared Services, and Ms. Yessica Jones, Director, Department of Information Services (DIS), provided an update on how DIS and other departments are currently protecting the State's data. Executive branch endpoints and emails are monitored for signs of compromise and security incidents across the network. DIS monitors all internet activity for systems in the State network for non-malicious activity, and determines how the risk is managed. Employee negligence and accidental loss are the root causes of recent data security breaches. Cyber hygiene is extremely critical and the State currently provides cybersecurity awareness training to all executive branch employees. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provides the state with cyber-infrastructure assessment. In addition, DHS also evaluates the effectiveness of industrial controls of state buildings, provides a cyber-resilient review, and appraises state building operational resilience and cyber-security practices at no cost.

ABA is aware of risks associated with building automation. However, the trend is moving towards smart buildings and smart systems that require access through internet addresses. ABA is working closely with DIS, as well as, the Office of Information Systems to ensure safeguards are in place to reduce risks. Over the last five years, upgrades to provide additional security have aided in reducing risk. Only individuals within the state network organization have access to the building systems.

Mr. Scott Lanigan, Senior Manager for Government Services, Intelligent Buildings, Mr. Tom Shircliff, Principle, Intelligent Buildings, and Mr. Fred Gordy, Director of Cybersecurity, Intelligent Buildings, presented the need for more advanced cyber-security for the State. Their clients include corporate, commercial, government, utilities, college campuses, and the military.

The federal government is concerned with protecting their data. If an individual with bad intentions accesses the data they could figure out when people are in buildings, making them an exposed target. Several counties and cities around the nation have lost digital productivity due to their buildings being hacked. Data that resides on the State networks is susceptible to hacking.

Legislative Report on Fee Changes and information on Driver’s Test Scheduling [Exhibits E1-E3]

Mr. Bob Sanders, General Manager, Information Network of Arkansas (INA), explained the September and December 2019 fee changes reports, as well as, the new Public Safety Driver’s Test Scheduling.

The INA examined the experience Arkansans have when taking the driver’s test. The experience is not modern, and it is not uncommon to wait one or more hours and not be able to take the test during the same day. A reservation system for the driver’s test was created and launched on January 7, 2020. Arkansans are now able to use a computer or smartphone to go online to select a test, choose a date, location, and time. A reservation number and reminder text are provided. When the second phase is released Arkansans will be able to take the written test on the website.

INA is a public/private partnership that is primarily funded by transaction fees paid by citizens and businesses that use their services. All fees are approved by the INA Board. Thirty new services were launched during the third and fourth quarters of 2019, and are serving Arkansans in six cities, seven counties, and three State agencies. There was one cost increase to the annual subscription fee that businesses pay. The increase is regarding an annual monthly invoice, which is being changed from \$95 dollars to \$150 dollars to offset increasing costs.

Arkansas Broadband Manager’s Report [Exhibit F]

Dr. Nathan Smith, Research Director, Arkansas Department of Commerce and Manager for the Arkansas State Broadband, stated the State is using the American Community Survey Data to explain how broadband can be used. Internet access is a generational change with younger people utilizing it. Education for instance has become digital, therefore students without internet in the home find it difficult to complete homework assignments, creating an education gap. However, studies show that parents find internet access a necessity when a child is in the home, therefore this gap does not occur. One of the issues that effects rural citizens regarding internet connection is that Internet Service Providers (ISP) have a more difficult task in providing it both financial and practically. Arkansas has many ISPs, but not much consumer choice.

Arkansas Rural Connect Broadband Grant Program Rule [Exhibit H]

Dr. Nathan Smith, stated that based on the feedback received, substantial changes were made to the Arkansas Rural Connect Program rules. Federal programs are available to assist with broadband expansion, however Dr. Smith stressed the need is now and Arkansas cannot afford to wait. The biggest change made to the program is the expansion of areas that can apply. Now unincorporated communities and counties can apply through county judges. The ISPs are responsible for the deployment of broadband. Local government will represent the interest of their constituents while negotiating with the ISP, rank the projects, and monitor the program once completed. The population 500 rule still exists, but now small towns can apply together in order to comply.

A motion to review the rule for Arkansas Rural Connect was made by Representative Meeks. Without a second, the motion failed.

Discussion of Data-Sharing and Data-Driven Decision-Making Task Force Report [Exhibit G]

Representative Meeks discussed the recommendations made by the Data Sharing & Data-Driven Decision Making Task Force. All nine recommendations were approved by the Task Force. The recommendations included the issues of creating a centralized data hub for State agencies to share their data creating more governmental efficacy. The Data-Sharing and Data-Driven Decision-Making Task Force report will be presented to the Arkansas Legislative Council.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM.