

# EXHIBIT B

## MINUTES

### JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Wednesday, October 28, 2015  
10:00 a.m.  
Room A, MAC, Little Rock, Arkansas

---

The Joint Interim Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology met on Wednesday, October 28, 2015, at 10:00 a.m., in the Multi-Agency Complex Building—Room A, in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Members in attendance: Senators Bill Sample, Chair; Vice Chair; Ronald Caldwell, Jimmy Hickey and Greg Standridge. Representatives Stephen Meeks, Chair; Michael John Gray, Vice Chair; Charles Blake, Jim Dotson, Charlene Fite (alternate), Sue Scott (alternate) and Nelda Speaks (alternate).

Other legislators present: Senator Jonathan Dismang. Representatives Scott Baltz, Mary Bentley, Ken Bragg, Andy Davis, Jana Della Rosa, Charlotte Douglas, Trevor Drown, Kenneth Ferguson, Lanny Fite, Jeremy Gillam, Ken Henderson, David Hillman, Joe Jett, Greg Leding, David Meeks, Ron McNair, Betty Overbey, Marcus Richmond, Laurie Rushing, James Sturch, Dan Sullivan, Dwight Tosh, DeAnn Vaught, and Marshall Wright.

Representative Stephen Meeks called the meeting to order.

**Committee consideration to approve the Minutes of September 21, 2015. Without objection, the motion was approved. [EXHIBIT B]**

#### **Arkansas Border to Border Broadband Initiative [HANDOUT #1]**

Representative Meeks gave a brief overview of the outlined agenda items. He informed the Committee that Representative Gillam, Speaker of the House, and Senator Dismang, President Pro Tempore are being recognized to present the broadband initiative.

Representative Gillam said the he and Senator Dismang had previous discussions over several years regarding Arkansas' internet connectivity issues within the school systems that affect educational opportunities. Initiatives by other departments have tried to ensure that connectivity and broadband is accessible in every school district. In addition, Arkansas has to take the lead to ensure that every home and business has appropriate access to broadband. Representative Gillam pointed out that Governor Asa Hutchinson has gotten the ball rolling with his computer coding initiative, noting that he expects a broadband plan to be in place by the Regular Session 2016. This plan will be developed by the ACIT Committee and will be presented to the Arkansas General Assembly during the next regular session. Senator Dismang advised the Committee to set strict guidelines and goals to cover certain areas such as the information gathering process, noting that this should be setup expeditiously with a policy setting phase. Representative Gillam noted that Arkansas has made good strides with broadband connectivity in certain areas however, some urban and rural areas are severely lacking. He reported that Mr. Mike Preston, Director, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, needs another tool that will allow Arkansas to be more competitive. Senator Sample echoed Representative Gillam comments regarding broadband being an economic development issue.

After a brief discussion regarding the Arkansas Broadband Initiative, **Senator Sample made a motion to adopt the Arkansas Broadband Initiative. The motion was seconded and adopted by the Committee.**

Representative Meeks gave an overview of the proposed working timeline. He said his goal is to develop a reasonable, measurable plan to get the state where it needs to be. Referencing the timeline, Senator Sample said the Committee will visit other cities that are not listed on the timeline. He asked that at least three (3) Representatives and three (3) Senators commit to attending meetings in each city .

**Senator Sample made the motion to adopt the proposed working timeline. The motion was seconded and adopted by the Committee.**

#### **Next Meeting Date**

The Committee will meet on November 16, 2015 at the State Capitol in Room 151.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.