

MINUTES

JOINT INTRIM COMMITTEE ON ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

10:00 A.M.

Committee Room 151, State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee Members Present: Representatives Stephen Meeks, Co-chair; Jim Dotson, Vivian Flowers, and Fredrick J. Love. **Senators** Jonathan Dismang and Ricky Hill.

Alternates: Stan Berry

Other Legislators Present: Representatives Fred Allen, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Aaron Pilkington, James Sorvillo, and Nelda Speaks. **Senators** Linda Chesterfield, Alan Clark, and Mark Johnson.

Call to Order

Representative Meeks called the meeting to order and thanked everyone in attendance for coming.

Consideration to Adopt a Motion Authorizing Chairs to Approve Special Expenses

Representative Love made a motion authorizing chairs to approve special expenses and without objection the motion was adopted. [See Exhibit C]

Consideration to Approve December 11, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Representative Love made a motion to approve the minutes and without objection the motion was adopted. [See Exhibit D]

Consideration to Adopt Interim Study Proposal 2019-017: To Establish the Digital Fair Repair Act by Representative David Whitaker

Representative Meeks asked that this meeting item be carried over to the next meeting. [See Exhibit E]

Arkansas State Broadband Plan

Nathan Smith, Economic Policy Director, Arkansas Development Finance Authority, Economic Policy Division
[See Exhibit F]

Issues included in the discussion:

- USDA ReConnect and the State Broadband Plan allocates \$600 million for rural broadband on a competitive basis to internet service providers who apply for the funds
- Applications from states which have a State Broadband Plan get an additional 10 points on their applications
- Many Arkansans lack access to low-latency, high-bandwidth internet service
- Seek to make optimal use of federal programs that promote rural broadband; Federal programs available include FCC, USDA, Department of Commerce, and NTIA
- Consider exploring options for adjusting the state policy environment that might favor faster and more efficient deployment

Arkansas Broadband Manager’s Report

Yessica Jones, Director, Department of Information Systems (DIS)

Don McDaniel, Division Director, DIS

[See Exhibit G]

Issues included in the discussion:

- Estimated price to install broadband fiber in the ground total \$18 per foot
- 77.6 % of Arkansans have access to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) defined broadband speeds
- 80-100% of Arkansans will have access to at least 10Mbps of fixed broadband upon completion of projects funded by Connect America Fund Phase II Auction (CAFII)
- Arkansas rural electric service cooperatives are joining together to share costs and data to bring gigabit (Gbps) broadband to thousands in the state
- The Connect America Fund (CAF) awarded \$1.5 billion to build out broadband in unserved rural areas

Department of Information Systems, Proposed Rate Adjustments Report FY2020

Yessica Jones, Director, Department of Information Systems (DIS)

Amy Buss, Chief Fiscal Officer, DIS

[See Exhibit H]

Issues included in the discussion:

- DIS rate estimates and forecasts are based on customer increases and decreases and vendor cost change
- DIS cost savings to state agencies total \$1.3 million annually
- State agencies received rate decreases from 29¢ per gigabit in (FY19) to 15¢ per gigabit for (FY20)

Representative Dotson made motion to recommend review and without objection the motion was adopted.

Information Network of Arkansas, Legislative Reports on Fee Changes

Bob Sanders, General Manager, Information Network of Arkansas (INA)

Christy Williams, Director of Operations, INA

[See Exhibit I]

Issues included in the discussion:

- The INA is a public-private partnership formed by legislation in 1995
- Arkansas code §25-27-101 establishes INA’s mission to expand access to government services and information for citizens and businesses in Arkansas
- INA Board has approved rates for 37 new services with convenience or user fees attached
- More information about INA, including a full list of services are online at ina.arkansas.gov and www.egov.com
- A suggestion from the committee regarding developing an APP that drivers can use to report dangerous road hazards on the highway

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.