ENGROSSED HOUSE AMENDMENT
TO
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 556 By: Price of the Senate

and

Pope of the House

An Act relating to telecommunications; creating the Task Force on Oklahoma's Communications Infrastructure; providing for appointment of members and filling of vacancies; stating duty of task force; providing for reimbursement of expenses; providing for staff assistance; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

AMENDMENT NO. 1. Strike the title, enacting clause and entire bill and insert

"An Act relating to telecommunications; creating the Task Force on Oklahoma's Communications Infrastructure; providing for appointment of members and filling of vacancies; stating duty of task force; providing for reimbursement of expenses; providing for staff assistance; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 9004 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created, until November 1, 2004, the Task Force on Oklahoma's Communications Infrastructure.

B. The task force shall consist of sixteen (16) members as follows:

1. The chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, who shall serve as chair of the task force;

2. The chair of the Senate Committee on Energy, Environment and Communications;

3. The chair of the House Committee on Science and Technology, who shall serve as vice-chair;

4. The chair of the House Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development;

5. The chair of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission or a designee;

6. The Director of OneNet, the state telecommunications network within the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education;

7. Five members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate as follows:

a. one member of the Oklahoma State Senate,

b. one member representing a local exchange telecommunications provider serving seventy-five thousand or less access lines or a telephone cooperative,

c. one member representing the communications industry,

d. one member representing the Office of State Finance, and

e. one member representing the Oklahoma Government Telecommunications Network; and

8. Five members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as follows:

a. one member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives,

b. one member representing a local exchange telecommunications provider serving greater than seventy-five thousand access lines,

c. one member representing the communications industry,

d. one member representing the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority, and

e. one member representing a statewide association of cities and towns.

C. Members shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing authorities. Any vacancy on the task force shall be filled by the original appointing authority.

D. The task force shall conduct a study of the communications infrastructure in Oklahoma. The study shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. An overview of the existing communications infrastructure, including both public and private components and with particular emphasis on Internet access;

2. Assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the existing infrastructure, including issues such as interoperability, efficiency and impact on economic development; and

3. Development of recommendations for creating a communications infrastructure which will provide a seamless delivery system for voice, data and video capacity and for Internet access throughout all areas of the state.

E. Legislative members shall be reimbursed pursuant to the provisions of Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Nonlegislative members shall be reimbursed by their appointing authority for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

F. Staff assistance for the task force shall be provided by the Oklahoma State Senate and the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2003.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.”

Passed the House of Representatives the 8th day of April, 2003.

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Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2003.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate