

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1335

By: Adkins

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to utilities; creating the High-speed Broadband Rural Access Task Force; stating purpose of the task force; providing for membership; stating duties of the task force; requiring a report by a certain date; providing for termination; providing for appointments, cochairs, meetings, and staffing; providing for travel reimbursement; providing for noncodification; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the High-speed Broadband Rural Access Task Force. The purpose of the task force shall be to study the unique challenges of delivering high-speed broadband access to rural areas of this state.

B. The task force shall be composed of the follow members:

1. The Chair of the Energy and Utility Regulation Committee for the Oklahoma House of Representatives;

2. The Chair of the Energy, Environmental Resources and Communications Committee for the Oklahoma State Senate;

3. Two members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

4. Two members of the Oklahoma State Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

5. Four members representing the broadband industry, two appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and two appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

6. Four members representing private industry that is located in a rural area of the state and is not an industry represented in paragraph 5 of this subsection, two appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and two appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and

7. Four members representing rural local government, two appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and two appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

C. The duties of the task force shall be as follows:

1. Review measures and actions taken by other states to encourage investment and deployment of high-speed broadband services in rural areas;

2. Assess the current level of access to high-speed broadband services in rural areas in the state;

3. Determine what action or orders have been or may be issued to the Federal Communications Commission regarding high-speed broadband service access in rural areas; and

4. Make recommendations for legislation or other action needed to improve high-speed broadband service access in rural areas in the state.

D. The task force shall complete their duties and make a report of their findings and recommendations to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and President Pro Tempore of the Senate no later than December 1, 2003.

E. Members of the task force shall be appointed no later than July 1, 2003. The Chair of the House of Representatives Energy and Utility Regulation Committee and the State Senate Energy, Environmental Resources and Communications Committee shall serve as Cochairs of the task force. The first meeting of the task force

shall take place no later than September 1, 2003. The task force shall meet at such times and places as deemed necessary to perform its duties as specified in this section. Meetings shall be held at the call of either cochair. Staffing for the task force shall be provided by the staff of the House of Representatives and the State Senate, and by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

F. Members of the task force shall receive no compensation for serving on the task force, but shall receive reimbursement for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes, from the legislative body in which they serve.

SECTION 2. 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.

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