ENGROSSED HOUSE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1020 By: Thomsen of the House

and

Brooks of the Senate

A Concurrent Resolution requesting the Corporation Commission refrain from disrupting funding of certain Internet access for technology center schools for certain period; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Internet access to public schools allows students the ability to connect to the Internet for the purpose of research, learning through the use of information technology and distance learning and prepares students to meet future educational and vocational goals; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Universal Service Fund has been funding Internet access to public schools with prekindergarten through twelfth-grade students since the enactment of the Oklahoma Telecommunications Act of 1997; and

WHEREAS, questions have arisen as to whether the Oklahoma Legislature intended that the term "public school", as that term is defined in Section 139.102 of Title 17 of the Oklahoma Statutes, include technology center schools; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation Commission is examining this issue and seeking clarification as to whether the Legislature intended technology center schools to be included within the definition of public school as that term is defined in Section 139.102 of Title 17 of the Oklahoma Statutes, as the Commission decides whether funding can continue to be provided to technology center schools; and

WHEREAS, during this legislative session the Oklahoma Legislature is considering legislation that will amend the definition of public school in Section 139.102 of Title 17 of the Oklahoma Statutes to explicitly include technology center schools that provide education to high school students and therefore clearly indicate that it has always been the intent of the Legislature that technology center schools are eligible for funding from the Oklahoma Universal Service Fund for Internet access; and

WHEREAS, in order to avoid a disruption in the funding for Internet access to technology center schools until legislation is passed, it is necessary for the Corporation Commission to recognize the intent of the Legislature that technology center schools be acknowledged as public schools within the definition as set forth in Section 139.102 of Title 17 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature requests the Corporation Commission recognize that it is the intent of the Legislature that technology center schools are included within the definition of public schools as set forth in Section 139.102 of Title 17 of the Oklahoma Statutes and therefore refrain from disrupting funding from the Oklahoma Universal Service Fund until December 31, 2017, for each public school building wherein classrooms are contained at technology center schools that serve students within grades prekindergarten through twelfth grade for the purpose of funding one access line, free of charge, with the ability to connect to an Internet service provider at 1.5 Mbps in the most economically efficient manner for the carrier or an equivalent dollar credit to be applied by the technology center school toward similar services provided by the same carrier for the purpose of accessing the Internet.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to Commissioner Todd Hiett, Commissioner Bob Anthony, Commissioner Dana Murphy and the Administrator of the Oklahoma Universal Service Fund.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 11th day of May, 2016.

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Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

Adopted by the Senate the ___ day of _____, 2016.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate