

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

3 HOUSE CONCURRENT
4 RESOLUTION 1020

By: Thomsen

7 AS INTRODUCED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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20 55-2-9824 KB 04/18/16

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