Approved: March 25, 2008
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jay Emler at 9:30 A.M. on March 20, 2008 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent:

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Cindy Lash, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes Ann McMorris, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

David Springe, CURB

Mark Schreiber, Westar Energy

Others in attendance: See enclosed sheet

Chair opened the hearing on:

HB 2681 - Review of regulations and laws with the intent of promoting nuclear industrial

development

Revisor noted **HB 2681** would repeal KSA 48-1604 that requires several state agencies to study the need for changes in state law arising from the presence in Kansas of nuclear materials and facilities.

Proponent:

Mark Schreiber, Westar Energy, noted the repeal of K.S.A. 48-1604 will not prevent state agencies from initiating or pursuing these studies. (Attachment 1)

Chair closed the hearing on HB 2681.

Chair opened the hearing on:

HB 2919 - CURB: negotiation for contracts for professional services

Revisor noted HB 2919 would authorize CURB to negotiate contracts for professional services.

Proponent:

David Springe, Consumer Counsel, Citizens' Utility Ratepayers Board, noted the language in **HB 2919** is drawn directly from an existing agency budget proviso; therefore, the agency already follows the procedures in negotiating contracts for professional services. The bill would formalize these procedures. (Attachment 2)

Chair closed the hearing on HB 2919.

Chair continued discussion and possible action on HB 2637.

Question was directed to SRS as to how often they provided Lifeline updated information to the utility. SRS indicated updates could be provided as required (once or twice a year) and also noted SRS provides information only on the current customers of the utility.

Moved by Senator Apple, seconded by Senator Taddiken, **HB 2919** be amended into **HB 2637**. Motion carried. "No" vote recorded for Senator Francisco.

Moved by Senator Petersen, seconded by Senator Lee, to amend **HB 2637** on page 10, line 7 to change the date from July 1, 2006 to July 1, 2008. Motion carried (Attachment 3) z2637h2

Moved by Senator Lee, to amend **HB 2637** on page 10, line 7 by changing date to '2010'. Motion failed due to lack of a second. (Attachment 4) z2637h1

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Utilities Committee at 9:30 A.M. on March 20, 2008 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

Moved by Senator Lee, seconded by Senator Apple, to amend **HB 2637** on line 30 by inserting new language with one word change from 'lower' to 'adjust' and to return the stricken language on line 28 to the bill. Motion failed by vote of 3 yes and 5 no (Attachment 5) z2637g1

Moved by Senator Lee, to amend **HB 2637** on page 8, line 28 by changing date to 2010. Motion failed due to lack of a second. (Attachment 6) z2637g2

Moved by Senator Lee, seconded by Senator Apple, to amend **HB 2637**, z2637g1, by adding language to indicate rates could not be adjusted more than 2.5% per year of the CPI-U rate. Motion carried.

(Attachment 5)

Chair asked Revisor staff to bring an updated balloon with the amendments passed in this meeting so that work could be continued on **HB 2637** at the next Senate Utilities meeting on Monday, March 24, 2008.

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann McMorris, Secretary

Attachments - 6

SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: MARCH 20, 2008

Name	Representing
-Cyndi Kalla hu	ATT
Bruce Ney	ATT
Agion Cattin	ATT
DON BROWN	Fleishman-Hillard
Expert Kul Cy	411/2
Dan Jacobson	AT + T
Linda Langston	Civ
Deb Vignatell.	AT+T
Susan Cumingan	AARP
Carolyn Laston	Emhary
Mark Schreiber	Westan
Mick Orban	Kansas Cas Seria
Pan O Springe	Curl
Jim Gartwer	ATIT
Spulz Alle	SITH

SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: MARCH 20, 2008

Name	Representing
Tom Thompson	Seerra Club



MARK A. SCHREIBER Director, Government Affairs

Testimony before the Senate Utilities Committee on HB 2681 March 20, 2008

Chairman Emler and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to address you today on House Bill 2681. Westar Energy supports the bill.

K.S.A. 48-1604 directs various state agencies, such as the department of commerce, the state labor department and the department of transportation to initiate and pursue continuing studies as to changes needed in state laws related to the presence of nuclear industrial development in the state.

The repeal of K.S.A. 48-1604 will not prevent state agencies from initiating or pursuing these studies. We believe it is unnecessary and respectfully ask for your support to repeal the statute.

Thank you again. I will answer questions at the appropriate time.

Senate Utilities Committee March 20, 2008 Attachment 1-1

Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board

Board Members: Gene Merry, Chair Randy Brown, Vice-Chair Carol I. Faucher, Member Laura L. McClure, Member A.W. Dirks, Member



David Springe, Consumer Counsel 1500 S.W. Arrowhead Road Topeka, Kansas 66604-4027 Phone: (785) 271-3200 Fax: (785) 271-3116 http://curb.kansas.gov

SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE H.B. 2919

Testimony on Behalf of the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board By David Springe, Consumer Counsel March 20, 2008

Chairman Emler and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of H.B. 2919. HB 2919 authorizes a statutory framework for the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board (CURB) to follow when negotiating contracts for professional services. The agency currently follows the procedures set forth in HB 2919 and recommends the committee formalize these procedures through passage of this bill.

CURB is the statutory advocate for residential and small commercial customers in cases before the Kansas Corporation Commission, the Kansas courts and the legislature. The agency is a five member volunteer board appointed by the Governor, composed of one member from each congressional district and one at large appointment. The agency is staffed with three attorneys, one technical analyst and two support staff. The majority of the agency's work in cases is done though the hiring of outside technical experts (accountants, engineers, economists, cost of capital and rate design) who evaluate the utility proposals and serve as expert witnesses on behalf of the agency in trial. The agency is fee funded, paid for by the customers it represents in cases and is not funded through the state general fund.

The agency recommends the committee pass HB 2919 for the following reasons:

- The language in HB 2919 is drawn directly from an existing agency budget proviso.
 Therefore the agency already follows these procedures in negotiating contracts for professional services.
- This type of standardized practice is more appropriate for statutory treatment, as opposed to annual proviso treatment through the appropriations process.
- The language in HB 2919 mirrors language in K.S.A. 66-1513, which authorizes and sets forth procedures for negotiating contracts for professional services for the Kansas Corporation Commission. Since CURB is a small board, the Kansas Corporation Commission performs a number of administrative and IT services for the agency.

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB 2919.

Senate Utilities Committee March 20, 2008 Attachment 2-1

Balloon Amendment

Senate Utilities Committee March 20, 2008 Attachment

z2637h2.pdf

HOUSE BILL No. 2637

By Committee on Energy and Utilities

1-17

AN ACT concerning telecommunications; relating to pricing flexibility and the lifeline service program; amending K.S.A. 66-2006 and K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 66-2005 and repealing the existing sections.

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 66-2005 is hereby amended to read as follows: 66-2005. (a) Each local exchange carrier shall file a network infrastructure plan with the commission on or after January 1, 1997, and prior to January 1, 1998. Each plan, as a part of universal service protection, shall include schedules, which shall be approved by the commission, for deployment of universal service capabilities by July 1, 1998, and the deployment of enhanced universal service capabilities by July 1, 2003, as defined pursuant to subsections (p) and (q) of K.S.A. 66-1,187, and amendments thereto, respectively. With respect to enhanced universal service, such schedules shall provide for deployment of ISDN, or its technological equivalent, or broadband facilities, only upon a firm customer order for such service, or for deployment of other enhanced universal services by a local exchange carrier. After receipt of such an order and upon completion of a deployment plan designed to meet the firm order or otherwise provide for the deployment of enhanced universal service, a local exchange carrier shall notify the commission. The commission shall approve the plan unless the commission determines that the proposed deployment plan is unnecessary, inappropriate, or not cost effective, or would create an unreasonable or excessive demand on the KUSF. The commission shall take action within 90 days. If the commission fails to take action within 90 days, the deployment plan shall be deemed approved. This approval process shall continue until July 1, 2000. Each plan shall demonstrate the capability of the local exchange carrier to comply on an ongoing basis with quality of service standards to be adopted by the commission no later than January 1, 1997.

(b) In order to protect universal service, facilitate the transition to competitive markets and stimulate the construction of an advanced telecommunications infrastructure, each local exchange carrier shall file a regulatory reform plan at the same time as it files the network infrastructure plan required in subsection (a). As part of its regulatory reform plan,

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price deregulated exchanges and the change in the number of competitors in price deregulated exchanges. If the commission finds that the weighted, average rate of nonwireless basic local telecommunications service, in exchanges that have been price deregulated pursuant to subsection (q)(1)(B), (C) or (D) in any one year period is greater than the weighted, statewide average rate of nonwireless basic local telecommunications service as of July 1, 2006, multiplied by one plus the percentage increase in the consumer price index for goods and services for the study periods, or the commission believes that changes in state law are warranted due to the status of competition, the commission shall recommend to the governor, the legislature and each member of the standing committees of the house of representatives and the senate which are assigned telecommunications issues such changes in state law as the commission deems appropriate.

- (8) For the purposes of this subsection:
- (A) "Packages or bundles of services" means the offering of a local telecommunications service with one or more of the following, subscribed together, as one service option offered at one price, one or more call management services, intraLATA long distance service, interLATA long distance service, internet access, video services or wireless services. Packages or bundles of services shall not include only a single residential local exchange access line or up to four business local exchange access lines at one location and intraLATA long distance service, or both;
- (B) "local telecommunications service" means two-way voice service capable of being originated and terminated within the exchange of the local exchange telecommunications company seeking price deregulation of its services, regardless of the technology used to provision the voice service;
- (C) "broadband network" means a connection that delivers services at speeds exceeding two hundred kilobits per second in both directions:
- (D) "prepaid telecommunications service" means a local service for which payment is made in advance that excludes access to operator assistance and long distance service;
- (E) "facilities based carrier" means a telecommunications carrier or entity providing local telecommunications service either wholly or partially over its own network. Facilities based carrier shall not include any radio communication services provider licensed by the federal communications commission to provide commercial mobile radio services; and
- (F) "call management services" means optional telecommunications services that allow a customer to manage call flow generated over the customer's local exchange access line.
 - (r) (1) Upon complaint or request, the commission may investigate

2008

Balloon Amendment

HOUSE BILL No. 2637

By Committee on Energy and Utilities

1-17

AN ACT concerning telecommunications; relating to pricing flexibility and the lifeline service program; amending K.S.A. 66-2006 and K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 66-2005 and repealing the existing sections.

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(b) In order to protect universal service, facilitate the transition to competitive markets and stimulate the construction of an advanced telecommunications infrastructure, each local exchange carrier shall file a regulatory reform plan at the same time as it files the network infrastructure plan required in subsection (a). As part of its regulatory reform plan,

Senate Utilities Committee March 20, 2008 Attachment 4-1 4-2

a local exchange carrier may elect traditional rate of return regulation or price cap regulation. Carriers that elect price cap regulation shall be exempt from rate base, rate of return and earnings regulation. However, the commission may resume such regulation upon finding, after a hearing, that a carrier that is subject to price cap regulation has: violated minimum quality of service standards pursuant to subsection (l) of K.S.A. 66-2002, and amendments thereto; been given reasonable notice and an opportunity to correct the violation; and failed to do so. Regulatory reform plans also shall include:

- (1) A commitment to provide existing and newly ordered point-to-point broadband services to: Any hospital as defined in K.S.A. 65-425, and amendments thereto; any school accredited pursuant to K.S.A. 72-1101 et seq., and amendments thereto; any public library; or other state and local government facilities at discounted prices close to, but not below, long-run incremental cost; and
- (2) a commitment to provide basic rate ISDN service, or the technological equivalent, at prices which are uniform throughout the carrier's service area. Local exchange carriers shall not be required to allow retail customers purchasing the foregoing discounted services to resell those services to other categories of customers. Telecommunications carriers may purchase basic rate ISDN services, or the technological equivalent, for resale in accordance with K.S.A. 66-2003, and amendments thereto. The commission may reduce prices charged for services outlined in provisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, if the commitments of the local exchange carrier set forth in those provisions are not being kept.
- (c) Subject to the commission's approval, all local exchange carriers shall reduce intrastate access charges to interstate levels as provided herein. Rates for intrastate switched access, and the imputed access portion of toll, shall be reduced over a three-year period with the objective of equalizing interstate and intrastate rates in a revenue neutral, specific and predictable manner. The commission is authorized to rebalance local residential and business service rates to offset the intrastate access and toll charge reductions. Any remaining portion of the reduction in access and toll charges not recovered through local residential and business service rates shall be paid out from the KUSF pursuant to K.S.A. 66-2008, and amendments thereto. Each rural telephone company shall adjust its intrastate switched access rates on March 1 of each odd-numbered year to match its interstate switched access rates, subject to the following:
- (1) Any reduction of a rural telephone company's cost recovery due to reduction of its interstate access revenue shall be recovered from the KUSF:
- (2) any portion of rural telephone company reductions in intrastate switched access rates which would result in an increase in KUSF recovery

on or before July 1, 2009,

Session of 2008

HOUSE BILL No. 2637

By Committee on Energy and Utilities

1-17

AN ACT concerning telecommunications; relating to pricing flexibility and the lifeline service program; amending K.S.A. 66-2006 and K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 66-2005 and repealing the existing sections.

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(b) In order to protect universal service, facilitate the transition to competitive markets and stimulate the construction of an advanced telecommunications infrastructure, each local exchange carrier shall file a regulatory reform plan at the same time as it files the network infrastructure plan required in subsection (a). As part of its regulatory reform plan,

Balloon Amendment

Senate Utilities Committee March 20, 2008 Attachment 5-1

Revisor of Statutes Office: MC H:1Drafts/Balloons/z2637g1.pdf

- (C) in any exchange in which there are fewer than 75,000 local exchange access lines served by all providers, the commission shall price deregulate all business telecommunication services upon a demonstration by the requesting local telecommunications carrier that there are two or more nonaffiliated telecommunications carriers or other entities, that are nonaffiliated with the local exchange carrier, providing local telecommunications service to business customers, regardless of whether the entity provides local service in conjunction with other services in that exchange area. One of such nonaffiliated carriers or entities shall be required to be a facilities-based carrier or entity and not more than one of such nonaffiliated carriers or entities shall be a provider of commercial mobile radio services in that exchange;
- (D) in any exchange in which there are fewer than 75,000 local exchange access lines served by all providers, the commission shall price deregulate all residential telecommunication services upon a demonstration by the requesting local telecommunications carrier that there are two or more nonaffiliated telecommunications carriers or other entities, that are nonaffiliated with the local exchange carrier, providing local telecommunications service to residential customers, regardless of whether the entity provides local service in conjunction with other services in that exchange area. One of such nonaffiliated carriers or entities shall be required to be a facilities-based carrier or entity and not more than one of such nonaffiliated carriers or entities shall be a provider of commercial mobile radio services in that exchange;
- (E) rates for lifeline services shall remain subject to price cap regulation;
- (F) up to and continuing until July 1, 2008, rates for the initial residential local exchange access line and up to four business local exchange access lines at one location shall remain subject to price cap regulation. Such rates shall not be affected by purchase of one or more of the following: Call management services, intraLATA long distance service or interLATA long distance service; and
- (G) local exchange carriers shall offer a uniform price throughout each such exchange for services subject to price deregulation, under this subsection, including packages or bundles of services, except as provided in subsection (1) or as otherwise approved by the commission.
 - (2) For the purposes of this subsection:
- (A) Any entity providing voice service shall be considered as a local telecommunications service provider regardless of whether such entity is subject to regulation by the commission;
- (B) a provider of local telecommunications service that requires the use of a third party, unaffiliated broadband network or dial-up internet

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, except that the local exchange carrier shall be authorized to lower such rates without commission approval provided that such rates shall not be priced below the price floor established in subsection (k)

Session of 2008

HOUSE BILL No. 2637

By Committee on Energy and Utilities

1-17

AN ACT concerning telecommunications; relating to pricing flexibility and the lifeline service program; amending K.S.A. 66-2006 and K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 66-2005 and repealing the existing sections.

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(b) In order to protect universal service, facilitate the transition to competitive markets and stimulate the construction of an advanced telecommunications infrastructure, each local exchange carrier shall file a regulatory reform plan at the same time as it files the network infrastructure plan required in subsection (a). As part of its regulatory reform plan,

Balloon Amendment

Senate Utilities Committee March 20, 2008 Attachment 6-1

Revisor of Statutes Office: MC H:1Drafts/Balloons/z2637g2.pdf ices shall be price deregulated;

- (C) in any exchange in which there are fewer than 75,000 local exchange access lines served by all providers, the commission shall price deregulate all business telecommunication services upon a demonstration by the requesting local telecommunications carrier that there are two or more nonaffiliated telecommunications carriers or other entities, that are nonaffiliated with the local exchange carrier, providing local telecommunications service to business customers, regardless of whether the entity provides local service in conjunction with other services in that exchange area. One of such nonaffiliated carriers or entities shall be required to be a facilities-based carrier or entity and not more than one of such nonaffiliated carriers or entities shall be a provider of commercial mobile radio services in that exchange;
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- (A) Any entity providing voice service shall be considered as a local telecommunications service provider regardless of whether such entity is subject to regulation by the commission;
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