

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, October 20, 1999 - 9:00 a.m. - Room 223 - State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Lorin V. Jones, Co-Chair
Rep. Sheryl L. Allen, Co-Chair
Sen. Joseph L. Hull
Sen. Howard C. Nielson
Rep. Ralph Becker
Rep. Chad E. Bennion
Rep. Blake D. Chard
Rep. David N. Cox
Rep. Gary F. Cox
Rep. Kevin S. Garn
Rep. Brent H. Goodfellow
Rep. Tom Hatch
Rep. David M. Jones
Rep. Gordon E. Snow

Members Absent:

Sen. Leonard M. Blackham
Rep. Melvin R. Brown
Rep. John E. Swallow
Rep. David Ure

Members Excused:

Sen. Mike Dmitrich

Staff Present:

Mr. Richard North,
Research Analyst
Ms. Tani Pack Downing,
Associate General Counsel
Ms. Junie G. Anderson,
Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials distributed in the meeting are on file in the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

1. Call to Order - Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m.

MOTION: Sen. Nielson moved to approve the minutes of the August 18, 1999 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. D. Cox and Rep. D. Jones were absent for the vote

2. Public Service Commission Report: State of Telecommunication Industry -

Commissioner Steve Mecham, Chair - Public Service Commission, briefed the committee on the state of the telecommunications industry in Utah. He discussed changes taking place in the industry. He emphasized that the 1995 State Telecommunications Act and the 1996 Federal Act are starting to work in Utah and urged the Legislature to resist efforts to change the law in the upcoming general session.

Commissioner Mecham said there are two impediments affecting progression of competition: (1) The slow development of cost models, and (2) litigation.

A copy of the statute "Utah Code 1998-1999, Title 54 Public Utilities, Section 54-8b-2 and 54-2-1," was distributed, and the portion regarding the four conditions that must be met for price indexing in the current statute was pointed out by Chair Allen.

3. Unauthorized Charges On Utility Bill: Cramming - Draft Legislation - Ms. Downing distributed draft legislation titled "Unauthorized Charges on Utility Bill - Cramming Amendments," and discussed the bill. She also noted areas of concern which were shown on the draft and asked that anyone having comments or suggestions contact her by November 1.

4. Telecommunication Definition Amendments - Draft Legislation - Ms. Downing discussed draft legislation titled, "Telecommunication Definition Technical Amendments," which was mailed to committee members prior to the meeting. Commissioner Mecham indicated support for the proposed changes.

MOTION: Rep. Chard moved to approve draft legislation "Telecommunication Definition Technical Amendments," as a committee-recommended bill. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. D. Cox and Rep. Garn were absent for the vote.

5. Identity Fraud Act - Draft Legislation - Sen. Gene Davis discussed draft legislation titled, "Identity Fraud," which was mailed to committee members prior to the meeting.

Chair Allen recommended that Rep. Bennion, sponsor of a similar bill, and Sen. Davis work together on their respective bills and present them at the November meeting. She also requested that the Legislative Fiscal Analyst prepare draft fiscal notes for the bills.

6. Adjournment -

MOTION: Rep. Bennion moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:54 a.m. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Garn and Rep. Hatch were absent for the vote.