

Resolution

ENROLLED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 74

By: Hobson of the Senate

and

Adair, Adkins, Armes, Askins,
Balkman, Bengé, Blackburn,
Blackwell, Bonny, Boren, Braddock,
Brannon, Calvey, Carey, Cargill,
Case, Claunch, Coleman, Covey, Cox,
Dank, Davis, Deutschendorf, DeWitt,
Dorman, Eddins, Ellis, Ericson,
Erwin, Ferguson, Gilbert, Graves,
Greenwood, Hamilton, Harrison,
Hastings, Hefner, Hielt, Hilliard,
Hutchison, Ingmire, Jones, Kirby,
Lamons, Langmacher, Leist, Lindley,
Liotta, Maddux, Mass, McCarter,
McClain, McIntyre, Miller (Doug),
Miller (Ray), Mitchell, Morgan
(Danny), Morgan (Fred), Nance,
Nations, Newport, O'Neal, Paulk,
Perry, Peters, Peterson (Pam),
Peterson (Ron), Pettigrew, Phillips,
Piatt, Plunk, Pope, Reynolds, Rice,
Roan, Roberts, Roggow, Smaligo,
Smith, Smithson, Staggs, Stanley,
Steele, Sullivan, Sweeden, Taylor,
Tibbs, Toure, Trebilcock, Turner,
Tyler, Vaughn, Walker, Wells,
Wilson, Wilt, Winchester, Worthen,
Wright and Young of the House

A Concurrent Resolution creating the Task Force on Deregulation of the Oklahoma Telecommunications Service Provider Industry; stating purpose; providing for membership, qualifications, appointment of officers and certain reimbursements; authorizing meetings; requiring compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act and the Oklahoma Open Records Act; providing for staff support; defining parameters of study; requiring a report; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the deregulation of the telecommunications service provider industry is one of the most complex and prominent business issues to be considered by the Oklahoma State Legislature.

WHEREAS, deregulation will affect dozens of large and small telecommunications service providers and virtually every Oklahoman throughout the state.

WHEREAS, before any dramatic changes are made in state law relating to regulating the telecommunications service provider industry, the Oklahoma State Legislature is committed to fully understand the impact not only on the companies that provide such services, but most importantly, upon the consumers who pay the phone bills.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT there is hereby created, until January 31, 2005, the Task Force on Deregulation of the Oklahoma Telecommunications Service Provider Industry.

THAT the Task Force shall advise the Oklahoma Legislature in an effort to determine the necessity and feasibility of abolishing certain statutory provisions, relating to the telecommunications service provider industry in the State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Task Force shall consist of sixteen (16) members as follows:

1. The Oklahoma Attorney General or a designee;
2. Five members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate as follows:
 - a. one member who is a legal resident of this state,
 - b. two members of the Oklahoma State Senate,
 - c. one member representing a local exchange telecommunications service provider serving fewer than fifty thousand (50,000) access lines, and
 - d. one member representing the telecommunications industry;
3. Five members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as follows:
 - a. one member who is a legal resident of this state,
 - b. two members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives,
 - c. one member representing a local exchange telecommunications service provider serving more than fifty thousand (50,000) access lines, and
 - d. one member representing the telecommunications industry; and

4. Five members appointed by the Governor as follows:

- a. one member who is a legal resident of this state,
- b. one consumer of services from a local exchange telecommunications service provider serving more than fifty thousand (50,000) access lines,
- c. one consumer of services from a local exchange telecommunications service provider serving fewer than fifty thousand (50,000) access lines, and
- d. two members representing the telecommunications industry.

THAT the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall jointly appoint from among the membership a chair and vice-chair.

THAT members shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing authorities. Any vacancy on the Task Force shall be filled by the original appointing authority.

THAT the members of the Task Force shall receive no compensation for their service on the Task Force, but shall receive travel reimbursement in the following manner:

1. Legislative members shall be reimbursed for their necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the provisions of Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

2. Nonlegislative members shall be reimbursed by their appointing authority for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

THAT the Task Force shall be authorized to meet at the call of the chair at such times as may be required in order to perform the duties imposed upon it by law.

THAT the Task Force shall be subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act and the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

THAT the Corporation Commission shall be requested to provide such staff support as is required by the Task Force with necessary and appropriate staff assistance from the Oklahoma State Senate and the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

THAT the Task Force shall conduct a study of the telecommunications service provider industry in Oklahoma. The study shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Providing an overview of existing telecommunications service provider industry regulations;

2. Assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the existing industry regulations;

3. Examining how telecommunications service provider deregulation in the State of Oklahoma will impact consumers, rates, industry competition, delivery and efficiency of services, potential industry growth, research and technological advancements, telecommunications service provider industry workforce, investment by telecommunications service providers in the state's telecommunications service infrastructure and the economy of the state;

4. Determining ways in which the State of Oklahoma can deregulate the telecommunications service provider industry that will have the greatest positive impact on consumers in terms of rates, equipment, access to services and promoting equity of competition among telecommunications service providers;

5. Ascertaining if there are any final recommendations of previous task forces, commissions, working groups, associations or other entities that have previously undertaken studies of telecommunications service providers industry deregulation efforts within the preceding ten (10) years. The Task Force shall determine the extent to which any of such recommendations have been implemented pursuant to changes in either state law or policy, and to the extent possible, the Task Force shall determine whether the implementation of the recommendations from such prior studies was effective; and

6. Developing recommendations specifically intended to assist the Oklahoma State Legislature to determine the necessity and appropriateness of enacting legislation deregulating the telecommunications service provider industry. Such recommendations shall result in, but not be limited to:

- a. improving telecommunications services to consumers in all rural and metropolitan areas of the state,
- b. ensuring equity of rates for consumers in all rural and metropolitan areas of the state,
- c. promoting fairness in competition among the telecommunications service providers offering services in all rural and metropolitan areas of the state, and
- d. encouraging a healthy climate for economic growth in the telecommunications service provider industry throughout the State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Task Force recommendations shall be contained in a final report to be submitted to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives not later than November 30, 2004.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Governor, the Attorney General and the members of the Corporation Commission.

Adopted by the Senate the 20th day of May, 2004.

Heid Roell
Presiding Officer of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 26th day of May,
2004.

Larry D Roberts
Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Secretary of State this _____

27th day of May, 2004,
at 1:42 o'clock P. M.

By: *M. Susan Swartz*
ENR. S. C. R. NO. 74