

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1125

Approved by the Governor April 10, 1984

Introduced by Speaker, Nichol, 48, for the Governor;
Labeledz, 5; Scofield, 49

AN ACT relating to the Department of Administrative Services; to amend sections 81-1120.01, 81-1120.02, 81-1120.18, and 81-1120.23, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943; to provide intent; to create the Telecommunications and Information Center; to provide duties; to create an advisory committee; to define a term; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. There is hereby created within the division of communications of the Department of Administrative Services the Telecommunications and Information Center to be headed by the Director of Communications. The purpose of the center shall be to monitor and make assessments of the technology of communications and information in order to identify opportunities which, if developed, would benefit the economy of the state. Nothing in sections 1 to 3 of this act shall be construed to authorize the creation or development of a state-financed or directed news media, telecommunications system, telecommunications access or transport service, or any part of such system or service.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the center to:

(1) Develop a data base containing information on the communications and information technology industries;

(2) Monitor and assess needs for communications and information technology and identify existing technologies to meet those needs;

(3) Identify communications and information technology development opportunities and advise the Department of Economic Development of such opportunities; and

(4) Advise the Governor, the State Department of Education, and educational institutions of curricula and other educational needs and opportunities relating to communications and information technology.

Sec. 3. There is hereby created an advisory committee for the Telecommunications and Information Center to provide assistance in carrying out the provisions of sections 1 to 3 of this act. The purposes of the committee are to assist the center in developing

objectives, setting priorities, and making recommendations. The committee shall consist of eight members appointed by the Governor and shall include five members from the private sector. Of the five members, one member shall represent telephone companies which are locally owned and controlled with less than fifty thousand access lines, two members shall represent all other telephone companies, one member shall represent the television industry, and one member shall represent the radio industry. The members of the committee shall serve for a term of four years, except that of the members initially appointed, four shall serve for a term of two years and four shall serve for a term of four years. The members shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for their actual expenses as provided in sections 84-306.01 to 84-306.05 for state employees. The committee shall select one of its members as chairperson. The committee shall meet at least four times a year and a meeting may be called by (1) the chairperson, (2) four members of the committee, or (3) the director.

Sec. 4. That section 81-1120.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, be amended to read as follows:

81-1120.01. The Legislature hereby declares that (1) an efficient and reliable communications system is vital to the state during the conduct of regular business of the state and in times of emergency, (2) ~~and that~~ substantial economies can be effected by joint use of a consolidated communications system by departments, agencies, and subdivisions of state government, and (3) the technology of moving information in an accurate, efficient, timely, and usable form for the purpose of analysis and decisionmaking is an essential element to the success and survival of government, business, and industrial operations in Nebraska. It is, therefor, declared to be the purpose of this act and sections 1 to 3 of this act and the policy of the state to provide for the continual development of an efficient and reliable communications system for joint use by departments, agencies, and subdivisions of state government, to effect maximum practical consolidation and joint use of existing communications facilities and services owned or used by the state, and generally to coordinate all communications functions and activities of state government, and to review the opportunities for developing communication and information technology in the state.

Sec. 5. That section 81-1120.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, be amended to read as follows:

81-1120.02. As used in this act and sections 1 to 3 of this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) Board shall mean the State Communications Advisory Board;

(2) Director shall mean the Director of Communications;

(3) Division shall mean the division of communications of the Department of Administrative Services;

(4) Communications system shall mean the total communications facilities and equipment owned, leased, or used by all departments, agencies, and subdivisions of state government; ~~and~~

(5) Communications shall mean any transmission, emission, or reception of signs, signals, writing, images, and sounds or intelligence of any nature by wire, radio, optical, or other electromagnetic systems; and

(6) Center shall mean the Telecommunications and Information Center created by section 1 of this act.

Sec. 6. That section 81-1120.18, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, be amended to read as follows:

81-1120.18. The division of communications may form temporary advisory boards (1) to provide advice in the development, management, administration, and operation of a consolidated communications system to meet the communications requirements of all departments and agencies of state government and (2) to provide advice to the center. Board members shall be selected by the division and shall receive no compensation for duties performed as members of a board, but shall be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred while engaged in the performance of their duties under the provisions of this act as provided in sections 84-306.01 to 84-306.05 for state employees.

Sec. 7. That section 81-1120.23, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, be amended to read as follows:

81-1120.23. There is hereby established a cash fund to be known as the Communications Cash Fund. Appropriations made to the Department of Administrative Services for the purposes of this act and sections 1 to 3 of this act shall be credited to the cash fund. All funds received under the provisions of this act, or sections 1 to 3 of this act and all funds received for communications services provided to any agency, department, or other user shall be credited by the division to such cash fund. The division shall, under policies and procedures established by the director, expend funds from time to time credited to the Communications Cash Fund for the communications purposes enumerated in this act and sections 1 to 3 of this act.

Sec. 8. That original sections 81-1120.01, 81-1120.02, 81-1120.18, and 81-1120.23, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, are repealed.