

MINUTES
of the
FIRST MEETING
of the
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

June 10, 2011
Room 307, State Capitol

The first meeting of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee was called to order at 10:10 a.m. on Friday, June 10, 2011, in Room 307 of the State Capitol by Representative Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, chair.

Present

Rep. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Chair
Sen. Stephen H. Fischmann, Vice Chair
Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown (by telephone)
Sen. William F. Burt
Sen. Dede Feldman
Sen. Phil A. Griego
Rep. Jim W. Hall
Rep. Conrad D. James
Sen. Linda M. Lopez
Sen. Steven P. Neville
Rep. Debbie A. Rodella
Rep. Nick L. Salazar
Rep. James E. Smith
Rep. Luciano "Lucky" Varela

Absent

Advisory Members

Sen. Carlos R. Cisneros
Rep. Ben Lujan
Sen. Richard C. Martinez
Rep. Danice Picraux
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert
Rep. Richard D. Vigil

Rep. Ray Begaye
Sen. Mark Boitano
Sen. William H. Payne
Sen. John M. Sapien
Rep. Don L. Tripp

Staff

Gordon Meeks
Ralph Vincent
Carmella Casados
Jeret Fleetwood

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file.

Friday, June 10

The committee observed a moment of silence in honor of Representative Jeannette O. Wallace, who passed away recently.

The chair then recognized Representative Hall, who was recently appointed to fill the vacancy left by Representative Wallace. Representative Hall noted that he had worked with Representative Wallace many times in the past and is honored to be serving in her place.

Other members of the committee also introduced themselves.

Interim Committee Protocols

John Yaeger, assistant director for legislative affairs, Legislative Council Service, provided the committee with an overview of interim committee protocols. He began by discussing establishment of a quorum for committees, pointing out that the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee needs eight voting members to establish a quorum. Mr. Yaeger noted that committees that do not have a voting quorum present may still operate as a special subcommittee for the purpose of taking testimony.

Mr. Yaeger went on to discuss the provision that allows a majority of members from one house to block the actions of another house. However, he pointed out that interim committees often perform actions by consensus, making blocking unnecessary.

Mr. Yaeger discussed travel by interim committees. He explained that the New Mexico Legislative Council would allow interim committees to meet outside of Santa Fe during the 2011 interim, but only during July and August. He reminded the committee that a special session on redistricting is anticipated for September. Mr. Yaeger also reminded the committee that the legislative council requires interim committees to finish their work by December 1.

Department of Information Technology

Darryl Ackley, secretary of information technology, provided the committee with testimony regarding the Department of Information Technology (DOIT) and his vision for it. He began by explaining that he came to the department from the cybersecurity program at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, and that he is a computer scientist by training.

Secretary Ackley went on to discuss the DOIT's history and primary functions, explaining that the department houses the State Data Center and provides telecommunication services for state agencies. He also noted that the department reviews all major information technology purchases by state agencies. Secretary Ackley went on to point out that the Information Technology Commission provides some external oversight of the department.

Questions and comments from committee members included:

- the number of members and recent appointments to the Information Technology Commission;
- warranties and other protections afforded to state agencies when purchasing information technology products;
- the status of plans to consolidate the DOIT and the General Services Department;
- user responsibilities compared to vendor failures;
- the status of various DOIT projects;
- school districts failing to use their taxation authority in order to fund information technology;
- efforts by the DOIT to implement legislation expanding the transparency of state government, including increasing the data available on the sunshine portal; and
- improvements and other issues associated with the SHARE Program.

Several members of the committee also expressed concern regarding information technology contracts that did not meet the state's expectations or exceeded anticipated costs. They emphasized that the department should carefully examine contracts to avoid having to come before the legislature to ask for additional funding.

Work Plan and Meeting Dates

The committee added the following topics to its work plan:

- supercomputer status;
- public and higher education information technology issues;
- e-learning and distance learning; and
- public broadcasting.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 12:15 p.m.