



South Dakota Legislative Research Council

Issue Memorandum 94-11

An Overview of the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications

Introduction

On January 14, 1994, Governor Walter D. Miller signed Executive Reorganization Order #94-4. This executive order created the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications within the Office of Executive Management. The statutes pertaining to the Office of Executive Management are codified in chapter 1-33 of the South Dakota Codified Laws. In addition to the new bureau, the Office of Executive Management consists of the Bureau of Finance and Management, the Bureau of Intergovernmental Relations, the Bureau of Administration, and "any other agencies created by administrative action or law and placed under the Office of Executive Management." (SDCL 1-33-3).

The Commissioner

The head of the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications is the Commissioner of Information and Telecommunications. The commissioner will be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The commissioner will determine the divisions within the bureau.

Transfer of Functions, Authorities, and Positions

Bureau of Administration

The executive order transfers the functions,

authorities, and positions, including the rule-making authority, regarding data processing and telecommunications in chapters 1-14 and 1-33 of the South Dakota Codified Laws from the Bureau of Administration to the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications. Among the functions transferred from the Bureau of Administration to the Bureau of Information and Technology is the responsibility for the installation of data processing, telecommunications, and office equipment. The bureau may approve, disapprove, or modify requests of any unit of state government which involves the acquisition of any office systems technology, software, and services; telecommunications equipment, software, and services; and data processing equipment, software, and services. (SDCL 1-33-44). Also, the new bureau is directed to administer a service agency for serving statewide needs of data processing of any unit of state government or for any political subdivision. (SDCL 1-33-45).

Office of Educational Telecommunications

The order transfers the functions, authorities, and positions of the Office of Educational Telecommunications in chapter 13-47 of the South Dakota Codified Laws to the new bureau. In addition, the Commissioner of Information and Telecommunications is directed to perform the functions of the Secretary of Education

and Cultural Affairs relating to the Office of Educational Telecommunications. The Educational Telecommunications Board of Directors is continued and directed to perform its previously established functions as provided in chapter 13-47 with relation to the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications. The function of the board is "to consider and establish policy for and exercise all necessary control over the state educational telecommunications network, and to carry out the duties imposed in [chapter 13-47]...." (SDCL 13-47-2). The duties imposed by that chapter are sponsoring a noncommercial educational telecommunications network and an educational radio broadcasting system. Moreover, the South Dakota Instructional Television Advisory Council is also continued and is directed to exercise the functions associated with educational telecommunications in chapter 13-47 with relation to the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications.

Office of Rural Development Telecommunications

The order transfers the functions, authorities, and positions of the Office of Rural Development Telecommunications Network in chapter 1-33 of the South Dakota Codified Laws to the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications. The Board of Directors of the Rural Development Telecommunications Network

as set forth in §1-33-27 is continued under the order and is directed to exercise its functions as provided in chapter 1-33. The board is directed to advise the commissioner in "identifying statewide video telecommunications network options, creating a telecommunications network, providing cost-effective services for education, government, business, and rural economic development, ensuring network uses are consistent with the best interests of the state and network users, and establishing policies and rules to implement the rural development telecommunications network." (SDCL 1-33-26).

Budget of the Bureau

No new money was appropriated for the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications and no FTEs (full time equivalents) were added. The money and the FTEs were transferred from the Rural Development Telecommunications Network and the offices of Information Services and Telecommunications (formerly in the Bureau of Administration) and Public Broadcasting (formerly in the Department of Education and Cultural Affairs). The budget for the bureau is \$23 million and the number of FTEs allotted to the bureau is 204.8. The following chart represents the origination of the FTEs and the money in the budget of the bureau.

BUREAU OF INFORMATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

	General		Federal		Other	Total	
Information Services - Personal Services	\$ -	\$	-	\$	3,404,690.00	\$ 3,404,690.00	
BOA Operating Expenses	\$ -	\$	-	\$	2,910,757.00	\$ 2,910,757.00	
Total	\$ -	\$	-	\$	6,315,447.00	\$ 6,315,447.00	94
FTEs							
Telecommunications - Personal Services	\$ -	\$	-	\$	389,121.00	\$ 389,121.00	
BOA Operating Expenses	\$ -	\$	-	\$	6,541,325.00	\$ 6,541,325.00	
Total	\$ -	\$	-	\$	6,930,446.00	\$ 6,930,446.00	11
FTEs							
Rural Development - Personal Services	\$ -	\$	-	\$	366,757.00	\$ 366,757.00	
Telecommunications Operating Expenses	\$ -	\$	-	\$	4,053,131.00	\$ 4,053,131.00	
Network Total	\$ -	\$	-	\$	4,419,888.00	\$ 4,419,888.00	10
FTEs							
Public Broadcasting - Personal Services	\$ 1,755,256.00	\$	-	\$	794,080.00	\$ 2,549,336.00	
DECA Operating Expenses	\$ 1,086,461.00	\$	405,901.00	\$	2,068,238.00	\$ 3,560,600.00	
Total	\$ 2,841,717.00	\$	405,901.00	\$	2,862,318.00	\$ 6,109,936.00	89.8
FTEs							
Bureau Total Personal Services	\$ 1,755,256.00	\$	-	\$	4,954,648.00	\$ 6,709,904.00	
Operating Expenses	\$ 1,086,461.00	\$	405,901.00	\$	15,573,451.00	\$ 17,065,813.00	
Total	\$ 2,841,717.00	\$	405,901.00	\$	20,528,099.00	\$ 23,775,717.00	204.8
FTEs							

Functions of the Bureau

The order directs the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications to perform certain functions, including the following:

1. Provide Technical and management assistance to state agencies and institutions regarding systems or methods to be used to meet information and communication requirements;
2. Develop and propose operational technical standards for the state information system which will ensure the interconnection of computer networks and information of state agencies;
3. Purchase from or contract with suppliers and communications common carriers for communications facilities or services;
4. Cooperate with federal, state, and local emergency management agencies in providing

for emergency communication and information services;

5. Provide where feasible access by local governments to the state communication and information systems and service; and
6. In cooperation with other state agencies, plan, design, and conduct experiments in information services, equipment, and technology, and implement enhancements in the state information system. (SDCL 1-33-43).

Conclusion

The Commissioner of Information and Telecommunications is expected to be appointed this summer. The commissioner will in large part determine how the new bureau will be organized and has the opportunity to take the component parts from the Bureau of Administration and the Office of Educational Telecommunications and the Rural Development Telecommunications Network and create a unified state information system.

This issue memorandum was written by Jacquelyn Storm Legislative Attorney for the Legislative Research Council. It is designed to supply background information on the subject and is not a policy statement made by the Legislative Research Council.
