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**(Neb.)-Legislative Committee Meeting In Scottsbluff Today**

By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 10/24/2013 08:53 AM

SCOTTSBUFF, Neb. (AP) - A legislative committee is reviewing the effectiveness of a state fee on consumers' telephone bills designed to provide money to improve the telecommunications system in the state.

The Transportation and Telecommunications Committee is meeting in Scottsbluff Thursday to hear from business owners, professionals, school officials, and others on whether the Universal Service Fund is helping to provide a better communications system.

Sen. Annette Dubas, chairwoman of the committee, says it's been a long time since such a review of the fund and its impact on statewide telecommunications services has been done.

The committee will take input from other sites around the state and then report their findings to the Legislature along with any recommended legislation.

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