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Information Technology and the Role of the Joint Technology Committee

By Katie Ruedebusch

Information technology (IT) is used by every state agency to make operations more efficient and services more widely available to the citizens of Colorado. Along with other day-to-day expenses of state government, expenses related to IT are paid through the operating budget in the state's annual budget bill. This *issue brief* outlines the types of projects and expenses related to IT, the role of the Joint Technology Committee (JTC) in overseeing the approval and implementation of IT budget requests, and funding for IT projects.

The term "information technology" means IT and computer-based equipment and related services designed for the storage, manipulation, and retrieval of data by electronic or mechanical means, or both. The term includes, but is not limited to:

- computers, laptops, servers, network routers, hand-held devices, data storage devices, and all peripheral devices, including communications network equipment and systems;
- related services, feasibility studies, systems design, software, system testing, external storage, and network services, whether provided by state employees or others;
- systems, programs, routines, and processes used to employ and control data processing hardware, including operating systems, utilities, applications, software, and networking programs; and
- the application of electronic information processing hardware, software, or telecommunications to support state government business processes.

Operating budget requests related to the ongoing costs associated with the maintenance of IT systems are reviewed and prioritized by the Joint Budget Committee (JBC). IT operations for state agencies are managed by the Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT). Major IT budget requests (costing \$500,000 or more) are reviewed and prioritized by the JTC for recommendation to the JBC.

Joint Technology Committee

The JTC is charged with reviewing major IT projects, prioritizing IT budget requests, forecasting the state's need for future IT budget requests, and reviewing IT legislation. Established in 2013, the JTC is a statutory, six-member committee of the Colorado Senate and House of Representatives. Prior to FY 2014-15, IT budget requests were considered capital construction budget requests and were reviewed by the Capital Development Committee (CDC). Beginning with FY 2015-16, the JTC reviews all major IT budget requests. The committee is required to meet at least once a year to consider IT budget requests and other IT issues. The JTC reports recommendations, prioritization, findings, and comments regarding IT budget requests to the JBC for inclusion in the capital construction section of the state's annual budget bill. The JBC may also seek the JTC's review of any operating budget request for IT.

Members of the JTC. The JTC consists of three members of the Senate and three members of the House of Representatives. Each chamber is represented by two members of the majority party

and one member of the minority party. Two Senate members are chosen by the Senate President and one by the Senate Minority Leader. Two of the House members are appointed by the Speaker of the House and one by the House Minority Leader. The committee elects a chair and vice-chair, one from the House and one from the Senate, both of whom serve for the first regular session. They switch roles for the second session.

Committee oversight. The JTC has oversight responsibility for OIT, which includes reviewing and prioritizing major IT projects and ensuring that IT projects follow best practice standards. Oversight does not include interference with the general responsibilities of OIT. Other JTC oversight responsibilities include: emergency acquisitions of IT resources; annual updates to the statewide IT plan; the state's Chief Information Security Officer and his or her duties; and any IT purchased or implemented by a state agency that does not follow the standards set by OIT or is not approved through OIT. Legislative service agency directors are also required to maintain an information security plan and keep the JTC advised of the plan.

Reporting requirements. The JTC is required to submit a written report on the committee's findings and recommendations to the JBC by the first day of each regular legislative session. The report may include recommended legislation, any other information pertaining to approved IT budget requests, and a report on the status of multi-year IT projects. State agencies are encouraged to submit an annual written report on or before November 1 to the JTC concerning IT matters not managed by OIT. The Government Data Advisory Board is also required to submit an annual report to the JTC on or before March 1 concerning the board's actions. Additionally, if a vacancy arises for the Legislative Branch position on the Government Data Advisory Board, it must be filled by a JTC member.

Recent Funding for Capital IT Projects

Twelve agencies have received funding in FY 2015-16 through FY 2018-19 for 26 IT capital projects. Table 1 lists the agencies that received appropriations for projects.

Table 1
Capital IT Project Funding
FY 2015-16 through FY 2018-19

| Agency | State Funds | Cash & Federal Funds |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| Agriculture | \$0 | \$285,000 |
| Corrections | \$24,504,901 | \$0 |
| Education | \$2,331,000 | \$0 |
| Higher Education | \$10,521,555 | \$567,811 |
| Human Services | \$24,682,068 | \$48,050,482 |
| Labor & Employment | \$0 | \$57,776,960 |
| Natural Resources | \$0 | \$2,523,326 |
| Office of eHealth Innovation | \$1,875,500 | \$4,729,500 |
| Governor's Office of Information Technology | \$15,424,789 | \$0 |
| Personnel & Administration | \$0 | \$2,100,000 |
| Public Health & Environment | \$745,000 | \$3,620,007 |
| Revenue | \$52,350,833 | \$0 |
| Total | \$132,435,646 | \$119,653,086 |

Source: Legislative Council Staff.