

# STATE OF COLORADO

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LEGISLATIVE SERVICES BUILDING  
200 EAST 14TH AVENUE, 3RD FLOOR  
DENVER, CO 80203  
TELEPHONE 303-866-2061  
<http://leg.colorado.gov/agencies/joint-budget-committee>

January 12, 2024

Joint Technology Committee  
Colorado General Assembly  
200 East Colfax  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chairwoman Titone:

The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) would like to open a dialog with the Joint Technology Committee (JTC) concerning the development of a comprehensive statewide IT capital and operating plan. The JBC seeks to introduce legislation jointly sponsored with the JTC to create this plan with a goal of reducing or mitigating the creation of future “tech debt” and providing a framework for the state to standardize the schedule on which IT hardware, software, and other IT services are refreshed, renewed, redeveloped, or otherwise kept current. The plan should also account for the state’s current level of “tech debt”.

While the overall framework for the plan needs to be determined, some topics the Committees may wish to address includes:

- statewide definition of what constitutes “tech debt,” including defining the principal and interest of “tech debt;”
- require state agencies to triage their technology systems into a classification system to identify those that should be tolerated, invested in, retired and migrated, or eliminated and the frequency at which agencies should reevaluate their systems;
- how the JTC and JBC should prioritize funding for “tech debt;”
- require future IT budget requests to include information about the amount of “tech debt” paid down or relieved if the project is successfully implemented; or
- Specifying a certain percentage of new IT Capital Projects is dedicated to addressing related “tech debt.”

This list is not comprehensive and the Joint Budget Committee welcomes input from the JTC members related to other definitions and procedures that could be included in the framework. If the Committees wish to co-sponsor legislation and include it in the Long Bill package, the target date for decisions should be February 15. A bill not traveling with the Long Bill could move more or less rapidly.

Any questions at this time can be directed to JBC Staff for IT Capital, Scott Thompson, 303-866-4957 or [scott.thompson@coleg.gov](mailto:scott.thompson@coleg.gov).

Sincerely,

Shannon Bird, JBC Chair

CC

Samantha Falco, JTC Staff

Craig Harper, JBC Staff Director