

During the 2023 legislative session, the General Assembly considered several measures related to Information Technology (IT) including the Joint Technology Committee's role; communication services; and accessibility.

Joint Technology Committee

Established in 2013, the Joint Technology Committee (JTC) is charged with a variety of statutory responsibilities, including oversight of the Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT), IT capital budget request prioritization, and reviewing IT legislation.

The JTC is required to study IT capital budget requests made by state agencies and institutions of higher education.

Additionally, the Joint Budget Committee may submit operating budget requests for IT to the JTC for review. *Senate Bill 23-142* expands this oversight to include operating budget requests from the Legislative Department, the Department of Law, the Department of State, and the Department of Treasury.

Expanding Communication Services

In *Executive Order D 2022 023*, Governor Polis directed the Colorado Broadband Office within OIT to develop a strategy

connect 99 percent of Colorado households to high-speed internet by 2027.

Previously, local governments were prohibited from providing cable television, telecommunications, or broadband internet services, defined as high speed internet of certain speeds without voter approval. *Senate Bill 23-183* will remove the voter approval requirement and increase the availability of broadband.

The High Cost Support Mechanism funding provides financial assistance to rural communities to support reliable and affordable telecommunication and broadband services. *House Bill 23-1051* continues support for the funding.

Accessibility

The General Assembly prioritized equitable access to services through strengthening state laws for individuals with disabilities. *House Bill 21-1110* made it a state civil rights violation for a government agency to exclude people with disabilities from receiving services or benefits due to a lack of accessibility. *Senate Bill 23-244* updates and clarifies accessibility standards for state information technology systems.

