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JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE
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 operating and lifecycle management plan. The JBC seeks to introduce legislation jointly sponsored with the JTC to create the IT Lifecycle Management 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 Lifecycle Management 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, in consultation or coordinated with the Office of Information Technology, 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 projects included in the Lifecycle Management Plan;
- require future IT projects to consider the future impact of purchasing hardware versus alternatives to ownership such as hardware-as-a-service;
- require future IT budget requests to include information about the amount of “tech debt” paid down or relieved and its relationship to the Lifecycle Management Plan if the project is successfully implemented; or
- specifying a certain percentage of new IT Capital Projects is dedicated to funding the Lifecycle Management Plans.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shannon Bird".

Shannon Bird, JBC Chair

CC

Samantha Falco, JTC Staff

Craig Harper, JBC Staff Director