



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Memorandum

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December 2022

TO: Joint Technology Committee

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SUBJECT: Overview of the Joint Technology Committee

Summary

This memorandum gives an overview of the Joint Technology Committee (JTC), including committee membership, powers and duties, and the committee's role in the budget process as related to capital information technology (IT) budget requests.

Overview

Established in 2013, the JTC is a statutory committee of the Colorado General Assembly. The JTC is charged with a variety of statutory responsibilities, including oversight of the Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT), prioritization of IT capital budget requests, and review of IT legislation. Annually, the JTC reports recommendations, prioritization, findings, and comments regarding IT capital budget requests to the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) for inclusion in the capital construction section of the state's annual budget bill.

Committee Operations

Pursuant to Section 2-3-1702, C.R.S., JTC committee members are appointed after the General Election, and before the convening of the General Assembly each year. The appointees may be current

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members or members-elect. Appointees to the JTC should have experience in the areas of IT, business analysis, or business process.¹

The JTC consists of six members appointed as follows:

- three members of the House of Representatives, two of whom are appointed by the Speaker of the House and one of whom is appointed by the House Minority Leader; and
- three members of the Senate, two of whom are appointed by the Senate President and one of whom is appointed by the Senate Minority Leader.

Meetings. The JTC may meet as often as necessary to perform its functions, but it is required to meet at least once a year to review the Governor's budget submissions related to IT capital. The JTC may meet during the legislative session and the interim.

Chair and vice-chair. Once committee members are appointed, the committee is required to elect a chair and vice-chair, one from the House and one from the Senate. The chair and vice-chair serve in these roles for the first regular session of the General Assembly after they are elected and switch roles at the beginning of the second regular session.

Rules. The committee may prescribe its own rules of procedure, but generally adopts the rules of the Senate.²

IT Capital Budget Process

State statute requires the JTC to study IT capital budget requests made by state agencies and institutions of higher education.

An "IT capital budget request" means a budget request from a state agency or state institution of higher education for the installation, development, maintenance, or upgrade of IT, including the purchase of services from OIT. It does not include requests that are primarily operational in nature or requests where the funding will be used to support or modify state staffing levels.³ Pursuant to Joint Rule 45, the JTC is responsible for reviewing state agency IT capital budget requests with a total project cost that exceeds \$500,000, regardless of the source of funds, and higher education IT capital budget requests with a total state-funded cost that exceeds \$500,000.

The JBC is responsible for reviewing IT budget requests that are operational, like funding for personnel, utilities, and program operations. The JBC may elect to refer any operational IT budget requests to the JTC for review.⁴

¹Section 2-3-1702, C.R.S.

²Section 2-3-1703, C.R.S.

³Section 2-3-1701 (8), C.R.S.

⁴Section 2-3-1704 (11)(b), C.R.S.

Timeline. Each year, the executive branch must follow required deadlines for the submission, review, and prioritization of budget requests. Table 1 shows the executive branch budget request submission deadlines to the JTC.

Table 1
Executive Branch Budget Submission Deadlines

Due Date	Description
October 1	State agencies and state institutions of higher education send IT capital budget requests to the JTC.
November 1	Executive branch sends prioritized list of IT capital budget requests to the JTC.
December 10	Executive branch sends supplemental and late IT capital budget requests to the JTC.

Source: Section 24-37-304 (1)(c.5)(I), C.R.S.

Table 2 shows the deadlines by which the JTC must send prioritized recommendations regarding IT capital budget requests to the JBC.

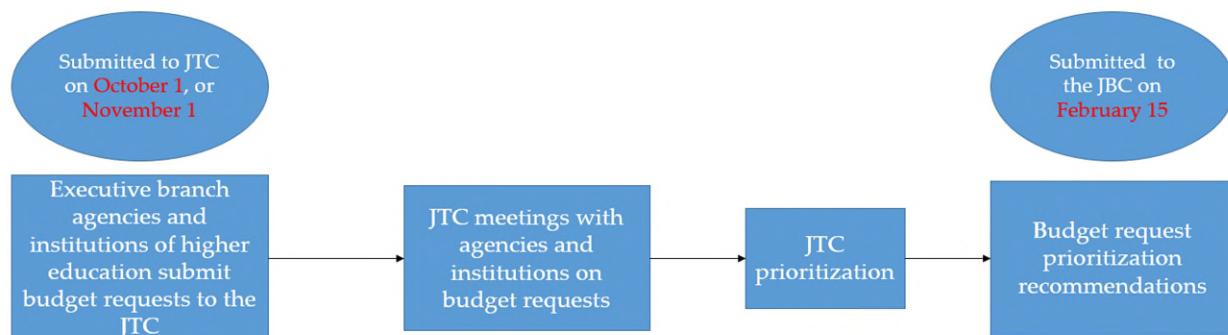
Table 2
JTC Budget Recommendation Deadlines

Due Date	Description
January 15	JTC submits supplemental IT capital budget request prioritization recommendations to the JBC.
February 15	JTC submits new IT capital budget request prioritization recommendations to the JBC for the upcoming fiscal year.

Source: Section 2-3-1704 (11)(a), C.R.S.

Figure 1 provides an overview of the JTC budget process timeline.

Figure 1
JTC Budget Process Timeline



Source: Legislative Council Staff.

Interim supplemental requests. Throughout the interim, the JTC is also responsible for reviewing emergency supplemental IT capital budget requests submitted by the executive branch, and providing a recommendation regarding these requests to the JBC. Generally, meetings to review these requests are held prior to the JBC's meetings to review the state revenue forecasts on or around June 20 and September 20.

Powers and Duties

Oversight duties. The JTC has oversight responsibilities for OIT. This oversight does not include interference with the general responsibilities of OIT, but the law directs OIT to assist the JTC as necessary to facilitate the committee's oversight of OIT. JTC's oversight of OIT includes, but is not limited to:

- a review of the state of IT;
- any general IT needs; and
- any anticipated short- or long-term IT changes for OIT.⁵

The JTC also oversees:

- the state's Chief Information Security Officer and his or her duties; and
- any state agency that has had specific IT functions delegated to it by OIT.⁶

In addition to the JTC's oversight responsibilities, the committee is authorized to review the actions of the Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA), which manages the statewide internet portal.⁷

IT Legislation. The committee must review any legislative measure that is determined by the Speaker, the President, or the JTC to deal with IT, data privacy, or cybersecurity.⁸ The committee is authorized to make advisory recommendations about such measures. The JTC may also recommend new legislation related to the committee's charge if a majority of the committee supports the proposed legislation.⁹ These bills do not count toward a member's five-bill limit.

Reporting Requirements. The JTC is required to submit an annual report on the committee's findings and recommendations to the JBC.¹⁰ The report may include:

- legislation recommended by the committee;
- any recommendations based on the committee's statutory oversight; and
- the status of IT budget requests that were previously approved for incremental implementation over a period exceeding one year.

⁵Section 2-3-1704 (1), C.R.S.

⁶Section 2-3-1704 (2) and (6), C.R.S.

⁷Section 2-3-1704 (5), C.R.S.

⁸Section 2-3-1704 (8), C.R.S.

⁹Section 2-3-1704 (9)(a), C.R.S.

¹⁰Section 2-3-1704 (9), C.R.S.

Advisory Role

The JTC has a number of advisory roles and can request a variety of information and presentations from various sources. The committee is authorized to request information and presentations regarding data privacy, data collection and retention, access to data, and cybersecurity within state agencies. In addition, the committee may coordinate presentations with the Colorado Cybersecurity Council created within the Department of Public Safety.¹¹

Upon request of the JTC, executive branch agencies, the Judicial Department, and the departments of Law, State, and Treasury are required to make available to the committee any data, reports, or information necessary for the performance of the committee's duties.¹²

The General Assembly must create an information security plan that supports the operations of the General Assembly. Legislative service agency directors are required to maintain an information security plan and keep the JTC advised of the plan.¹³

Government Data Advisory Board. The Government Data Advisory Board within OIT consists of members of who are either experts in data or responsible for diverse aspects of data management within a state agency. The board has a variety of duties related to data sharing, including examining current data sharing practices among state agencies and analyzing any barriers to effective data sharing; creating standard templates for interagency data sharing and data access agreements; documenting best practices and standards for data management; and recommendations to address barriers to effective data sharing.

Members of the board may be selected by agency executive directors. Additionally, the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate may jointly select a member of the Joint Technology Committee to serve on the board. The Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court may also each select a member from their department to serve on the board. Finally, the Governor may select a member from political subdivisions of the state to serve on the board.¹⁴

¹¹Section 2-3-1704 (6.5), C.R.S.

¹²Section 2-3-1704 (10), C.R.S.

¹³Section 24-37.5-404.7 (3), C.R.S.

¹⁴Section 24-37.5-702, C.R.S.

Reports Submitted to the JTC

A number of state departments and organizations are required to report to the JTC about various activities.

Annual reports received from OIT. OIT is required to send several reports to the JTC annually. These include:

- **Broadband Deployment Board.** The Broadband Deployment Board within OIT is required to submit a report to the JTC within 6 months after the end of any state fiscal year in which the board awards one or more grants under the Broadband Stimulus Grant Program;¹⁵
- **Broadband Income-Eligible Household Reimbursement Program.** The Broadband Income-Eligible Household Reimbursement Program, managed by the Colorado Broadband Office within OIT, was created in Senate Bill 21-060. The bill directs the office to contract with a nonprofit organization to create a reimbursement program to subsidize certain households for broadband service, based on household income and local broadband accessibility, or provide another form of payment assistance. The office is required to submit a report to the JTC by February 1 each year regarding the office's implementation of the program. The report must include the number of households receiving assistance under the program in the previous calendar year and recommendations on how to make the program more successful, including any legislative changes needed to improve the success of the program.¹⁶
- **Government Data Advisory Board.** The OIT Chief Information Officer, in partnership with the Government Data Advisory Board, is required to submit a report to the JTC by November 1 each year that outlines the accomplishments of the board, provides recommendations for future work, and outlines the progress of sharing data among state agencies and entities and with local governments and nongovernmental organizations;¹⁷
- **Public Safety Communications Trust Fund.** OIT's Chief Information Officer must keep a record of all activities related to the Public Safety Communications Trust Fund, which is to be primarily used for the acquisition and maintenance of public safety communication systems. This information must be submitted to the JTC annually;¹⁸
- **Statewide Information Technology Plan.** OIT's Chief Information Officer must direct and approve a comprehensive, statewide planning process, and plan for the acquisition, management, and use of IT. This Statewide Information Technology Plan must be updated annually and submitted to the JTC;¹⁹

¹⁵Section 24-37.5-119 (9.5)(c), C.R.S.

¹⁶Section 24-37.5-904 (1.5)(g), C.R.S.

¹⁷Section 24-37.5-702 (4), C.R.S.

¹⁸Section 24-37.5-506 (6), C.R.S.

¹⁹Section 24-37.5-106 (2)(a), C.R.S.

- **Technology asset inventory.** OIT must submit a report by November 1 each year about the office's IT asset inventory and the office's refresh cycle, including cost projections;²⁰
- **Technology Risk Prevention and Response Fund.** OIT may use money in the Technology Risk Prevention and Response Fund to cover one-time costs associated with IT emergencies; to ensure compliance with OIT's IT standards and policies; or to prevent risk from IT that is anticipating failure, nearing or no longer maintained or supported by manufacturers or vendors, out of security compliance or creating security risk, part of an outstanding state audit recommendation, or keeping the state from recognizing efficiencies or advances in IT or IT financing. OIT must provide a quarterly report to the JTC that outlines all expenditures of moneys from this fund since the last report.²¹

Other annual reports. In addition to the annual reports received from OIT, the JTC receives annual reports from several other agencies. Including:

- **Child support incentive payments.** Beginning in federal fiscal year 2024, the state may retain a percentage of the federal child support incentive payments the state receives for the purposes of IT enhancements to the Automated Child Support Enforcement System. Beginning July 1, 2025, the Colorado Department of Human Services must submit an annual report to the JTC that details each project funded by any federal child support incentive payments that are retained by the state.²²
- **Independent state agency annual reports.** The Judicial Department, and the departments of Law, State, and Treasury must submit a report by November 1 each year to the JTC that details all IT purchased or implemented by the department;²³
- **Southern Colorado Institute of Transportation Technology.** The Southern Colorado Institute of Transportation Technology, located at the Colorado State University – Pueblo, is charged with conducting and facilitating education, training, and research on issues related to the safety, security, and innovation of railroad, ground, and intermodal transportation and general issues related to surface transportation problems in the state. The institute's governing board must submit an annual report to the JTC to advise the General Assembly on the efficacy of the institute;²⁴
- **Statewide Internet Portal Authority.** SIPA is required to submit a report by November 1 each year to the JTC that sets forth a complete and detailed operating and financial statement of SIPA during the relevant fiscal year, including the total amount of charges or fees imposed by each state agency for accessing electronic information, products, and services through the statewide internet portal. The report must also include any recommendations for legislation or other action that may be necessary to carry out the functions of SIPA. SIPA must also present the information contained in this report to the JTC;²⁵ and

²⁰Section 24-37.5-801, C.R.S.

²¹Section 24-37.5-120 (5), C.R.S.

²²Section 26-13-112.5 (8), C.R.S.

²³Section 2-3-1704 (7), C.R.S.

²⁴Section 23-31.5-113 (6), C.R.S.

²⁵Section 24-37.7-113.5, C.R.S.

- **Task Force for the Consideration of Facial Recognition Services.** The Task Force for the Consideration of Facial Recognition Services, created in Senate Bill 22-113, is required to submit a report to the JTC by October 1, 2023, and each year thereafter. The report is required to describe the issues to be studied in upcoming task force meetings and a prioritization of those issues; describe findings and recommendations regarding issues considered by the task force; describe legislative proposals that identify the policy issues involved, the agencies responsible for the implementation of the changes, and the funding sources required for the implementation; include recommendations concerning the requirements and restrictions on the use of facial recognition services by state and local government agencies and public schools; and include recommendations regarding the scope and membership of the task force.²⁶

One-time reports and audits. The JTC is also scheduled to receive the following one-time report and audit:

- **Study of personal identifiable information.** House Bill 21-1111 required the OIT Chief Information Office to convene an advisory group to study where personally identifiable information is stored by state agencies throughout Colorado, to study entities that have access to personally identifiable information stored by state agencies, and to determine the costs and processes necessary to centralize the storage and protection of personally identifiable information. The advisory group is required to complete its work and present to the Joint Technology Committee a summary of the advisory group’s findings, including potential proposals for legislation, by January 1, 2023;²⁷
- **Medicaid client correspondence audit.** In 2020 and 2023, the Office of the State Auditor is required to conduct a performance audit of the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing’s Medicaid client correspondence. The audit must include a review of the accuracy and completeness of correspondence that is generated through the Colorado Benefits Management System. The Office of the State Auditor is required to submit the findings, conclusions, and recommendations from this performance audit to the JTC by December 30, 2020, and December 30, 2023. The Legislative Audit Committee is also required to hold a public hearing on the audit report.²⁸

Program Review

The JTC is required to conduct the following review:

- **MyColoradoJourney.com.** By February 15, 2025, the JTC is required to assess the impact, effectiveness, and compliance with state and federal IT requirements and standards of the MyColoradoJourney.com platform and make a recommendation to the General Assembly regarding whether to continue the platform.²⁹

²⁶Section 2-3-1707 (3)(e), C.R.S.

²⁷Section 24-37.5-122, C.R.S.

²⁸Section 25.5-4-213, C.R.S.

²⁹Section 24-46.3-106 (7), C.R.S.

Past Audits and Reports

The JTC has received several one-time reports and audits that are frequently discussed because of their impact on statewide IT. These audits and reports are discussed below.

House Bill 17-1361. [House Bill 17-1361](#) required the Office of the State Auditor to retain a qualified, independent third-party consulting firm to perform an evaluation of state agency IT resources. The evaluation report was submitted to the JTC in December 2018, and included several recommendations. The final report can be found [here](#).³⁰

House Bill 18-1421. [House Bill 18-1421](#) required the consulting firm retained pursuant to HB 17-1361 to review and evaluate the procurement process for the human resources information system, known as HRWorks. The audit was submitted to the JTC in March 2019. The JTC met on March 22, 2019, to discuss the audit findings. In 2020, the HRWorks project was terminated due to insufficient funding. The final report can be found [here](#).³¹

Senate Bill 19-251. [Senate Bill 19-251](#) required OIT to: develop and implement a communications and stakeholder management plan for interacting with any state government entity that uses OIT services; convene a working group of state agencies to develop and implement a strategic plan for how state agencies use technology to provide services; and convene a working group to determine the cost, feasibility, and appropriateness of transferring ownership of IT infrastructure from state agencies to OIT. The bill also required OIT to submit a report to the JTC regarding the statutory changes, rule changes, and funding required to implement the transfer of ownership of IT infrastructure and if it is in the best interest of the state. The report was submitted to the JTC in December 2019, and can be found [here](#).³²

³⁰<https://leg.colorado.gov/audits/hb17-1361-evaluation-report-evaluation-state-it-resources>.

³¹<https://leg.colorado.gov/audits/hb18-1421-evaluation-report-procurement-process-major-information-technology-projects>.

³²https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/images/oit_senate_bill_19-251_report.pdf.