

Report of the Joint Committee on Information Technology to the 2025 Kansas Legislature

CHAIRPERSON: Senator Mike Petersen

VICE-CHAIRPERSON: Representative Kyle Hoffman

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER: Senator Jeff Pittman

OTHER MEMBERS: Senators Tom Holland, Rick Kloos, and Caryn Tyson; and Representatives Pam Curtis, Kirk Haskins, Carl Turner, and Barb Wasinger

CHARGE

Review, Monitor, and Report on Technology Plans and Expenditures

The Committee is directed to:

- Study computers, telecommunications, and other information technologies used by state agencies and institutions. The state governmental entities defined by KSA 75-7201 include executive, judicial, and legislative agencies and State Board of Regents institutions;
- Review proposed new acquisitions, including implementation plans, project budget estimates, and three-year strategic information technology plans of state agencies and institutions. All state governmental entities are required to comply with the provisions of KSA 75-7209 *et seq.* by submitting such information for review by the Committee;
- Monitor newly implemented technologies of state agencies and institutions;
- Make recommendations to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and House Committee on Appropriations on implementation plans, budget estimates, and three-year plans of state agencies and institutions; and
- Report annually to the Legislative Coordinating Council and make special reports to other legislative committees as deemed appropriate.

January 2025

Joint Committee on Information Technology

ANNUAL REPORT

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Joint Committee on Information Technology submits the following recommendations and considerations to the 2025 Legislature:

- Review data retention laws, regulations, and best practices. As part of its review, the Legislature should consider practices pertaining to the sale and use of such data by entities offering services to the State and its political subdivisions;
- Review policies pertaining to artificial intelligence and its use. As part of this review, the Legislature should consider algorithmic bias and discrimination and options for mitigating their possible impacts;
- Review provisions of law created or amended by 2024 House Sub. for SB 291 prior to the repeal of such provisions on July 1, 2026, and seek additional comments and feedback; and
- Commend state information technology (IT) staff for the work they have done to modernize and secure the State's IT infrastructure and equipment and the work toward developing a secure IT culture among state agencies.

Proposed Legislation: Legislation to amend KSA 75-7245 to include the Joint Committee on Information Technology as one of the recipients of the State IT Consolidation Report from the Information Technology Executive Council and the project cost estimates from the Judicial Branch IT Services for county and district court employees.

BACKGROUND

The Joint Committee on Information Technology has statutory duties assigned by its authorizing legislation in KSA 46-2101 *et seq.* The Committee may set its own agenda, meet on call of its Chairperson at any time and any place within the state, and introduce legislation. The Committee consists of ten members: five senators and five representatives. The duties assigned to the Committee by KSA 46-2101 and KSA 2018 Supp. 75-7201 *et seq.* are as follows:

- Study computers, telecommunications, and other information technologies (IT) used by state agencies and institutions. The state governmental entities defined by KSA 75-7201 include executive, judicial,

and legislative agencies and State Board of Regents institutions;

- Review IT project plan summaries, prior to the release of a request for project proposal, that are determined to have a significant business risk as established per Information Technology Executive Council policy. In instances when requested by Committee members, conduct a meeting to advise and consult on such projects prior to the release of a request for proposal. This process is provided for in KSA 75-7209;
- Review proposed new acquisitions, including implementation plans, project

budget estimates, and three-year strategic IT plans of state agencies and institutions. All state governmental entities are required to comply with the provisions of KSA 75-7209 *et seq.* by submitting such information for review by the Committee;

- Monitor newly implemented technologies of state agencies and institutions;
- Make recommendations to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the House Committee on Appropriations on implementation plans, budget estimates, and three-year plans of state agencies and institutions; and
- Report annually to the Legislative Coordinating Council (LCC) and make special reports to other legislative committees as deemed appropriate.

In addition to the Committee's statutory duties, the Legislature and its committees, including the LCC, may direct the Committee to undertake special studies and to perform other specific duties.

KSA 75-720 requires the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative Chief Information Technology Officers (CITOs) to annually submit to the Committee all IT project budget estimates and revisions, all three-year plans, and all deviations from the State IT architecture. The Committee is directed to review the estimates and revisions, the three-year plans, and the deviations and make recommendations to the Committee regarding the merits of an appropriation for the projects. In addition, the Executive and Judicial CITOs are required to report to the Legislative CITO the progress regarding implementation of projects and proposed expenditures, including revisions to such proposed expenditures.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The Committee met during the 2024 Legislative Session on March 18, 2024. The Committee also met during the 2024 Interim, as authorized by the LCC, on August 27, September 26, October 30, and November 21, 2024.

Election of Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, and Ranking Minority Member

At the March 18, 2024, meeting, the Committee elected Senator Petersen as Chairperson, Representative Hoffman as Vice-chairperson, and Senator Pittman as Ranking Minority Member for the 2024 calendar year.

Executive Branch Quarterly IT Project Reports

At the August 27, 2024, meeting, the Chief Information Technology Architect (CITA) provided the Committee with a presentation of the 2024 Quarter 2 (April–June) IT Project Reports. The CITA reported that Quarter 2, 2024 had 18 approved, 29 active, 2 completed, and 8 planned projects with 1 additional project on hold. Of the active projects, 3 were in caution status and 7 were in alert status. [*Note:* Projects are in alert status if they exceed 20 percent variance of one or more project performance metrics.] The following projects were in alert status:

- Department of Administration Capitol Complex Security Infrastructure Project;
- Department for Children and Families (DCF) Child Support Services Re-Platforming Project;
- Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) Electronic Health Records Project;
- Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Early Childhood Data Integration and System Enhancements Project;
- Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) ABIS II Project;
- Kansas Sentencing Commission Electronic Journal Entries; and
- Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks SmartCop Record Management System.

The Committee also heard presentations on the following newly active projects:

- Kansas Public Employees Retirement System Pension Administration System Modernization; and
- Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) US-169 Dense Wavelength Division Modernization.

At the November 21, 2024, meeting, the CITA provided the Committee with a presentation of the 2024 Quarter 3 (July–September) IT Projects Report. The CITO reported that there were 18 approved, 29 active, 2 completed, and 8 planned projects with 1 project on hold. Of the active projects, 3 were in caution status and 6 were in alert status. The projects in alert status were the same as reported in Quarter 2, with the exception of the KBI ABIS II Project, which was no longer in alert status.

Other Executive Branch IT Updates

Kansas Information Technology Office Reportable Projects Updates

At the March 18, 2024, meeting, the CITA provided an update on the KITO Approval and Reporting System (KARS). He stated that 126 projects had gone through the KARS process to date to determine whether or not the IT project was reportable to the Kansas Information Technology Office (KITO). He also provided the Committee with examples of projects that were and were not reportable under the new KARS process.

At the August 27, 2024, meeting, the Committee heard presentations on the following new IT project demands that were KITO reportable:

- KDHE Early Childhood Development Services Database Management Project;
- KDHE Ryan White Program Database and Claims Project;
- Department of Administration ACFR Consolidation Software;

- Board of Tax Appeals Modernization Initiative–Enterprise Content Management Project; and
- Kansas Highway Patrol South Haven Weight Station.

The Committee also heard presentations on the following new IT project demands that were not KITO reportable:

- KBI Microsoft 365 Implementation Fund Project;
- KBI Master Data Management Project;
- Kansas Corporation Commission RBDMS Replacement/Upgrade Project;
- Office of the Attorney General Victim Notification System Project;
- KDHE BOW State Revolving Fund Project;
- KDHE CARE ePASRR Project; and
- University of Kansas Syllabus Management Tool Project.

At the November 21, 2024, meeting, the Committee heard presentations on the following new IT project demands, both KITO reportable and not KITO reportable:

- KDHE EpiTrax Genomics (KITO reportable);
- DCF National Youth in Transition Database (not KITO reportable); and
- KBI Sexual Assault Kit Tracking System (not KITO reportable).

Cybersecurity Updates

At the September 26, 2024, meeting, the Executive Branch CITO provided the Committee with an update on state agencies' efforts to comply

with the requirements of 2024 House Sub. for SB 291. He noted the Information Technology Executive Council (ITEC) began meeting monthly in August with the Executive Branch CITO, who became the permanent chairperson of ITEC. Voting membership was reduced from 17 to 13 members. Additionally, the Office of Information Technology Services (OITS) is working to develop specifications for consultant assistance with consolidation planning, assessing current state IT expenditures, and analyzing the current cybersecurity staffing that is embedded with state agencies. At the November 21, 2024, meeting, the Executive Branch CITO provided further updates to the Committee on ITEC's continued work to comply with the provisions of 2024 House Sub. for SB 291, current cybersecurity staffing levels, and discussed the agency's philosophy on how it is approaching staffing with both in-house staff and third-party vendors.

The CITO also updated the Committee on the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program as well as other cybersecurity training offerings being carried out for state and local government staff. The Committee also received additional updates from the CITO during the September 26, 2024, meeting in Executive Session.

Agency Staff Announcements

At the March 18, 2024, meeting, the Executive Branch CITO introduced John Godfrey as the new State Chief Information Security Officer.

At the October 30, 2024, meeting, the Executive Branch CITO announced that the CITA had left the agency and had taken a position as the Judicial Branch CITO. Additionally, the agency was wanting to hire a Chief Data Officer to assist with data security, cross-agency collaboration, and other tasks.

Other Presentations

At the November 21, 2024, meeting, the Executive Branch CITO presented the Committee with the three-year IT Plans from all Executive Branch agencies as well as the Legislative and Judicial branches.

The CITO also updated the Committee on the Executive Branch's generative artificial intelligence (AI) policy. He said that a new version

of the policy is being drafted and will seek to achieve the following goals:

- Create an AI inventory and assessment process for all current generative AI use cases;
- Require state agencies to clearly identify or notify citizens when interacting with AI;
- Require state agencies to note when content is generated by AI; and
- Establish clear procurement guidelines related to AI.

The CITO also provided the Committee with an update on the datacenter as a service contract. The current contract with Unisys is set to expire on October 31, 2025. The agency is currently working on a new contract to begin on October 31, 2025, but a vendor is still being determined. The new contract will be similar in scope and requirements to the current one with the addition of cloud readiness assessments and possible migrations.

Judicial Branch Updates

At the August 27, 2024, meeting, the Acting CITO for the Office of Judicial Administration provided the Committee with an IT update. The Acting CITO discussed the branch's response to the Fall 2023 cybersecurity incident and how the Judicial Branch has since hired a CISO and adopted a Zero Trust policy, enforcing a strict identity verification and least privilege access, ensuring access is only granted as needed and reassessed constantly. She additionally discussed the progress the branch has made on implementing the provisions of 2024 House Sub. for SB 291 and the continued migration to the centralized case management system.

At the November 21, 2024, meeting, the new CITO introduced himself to the Committee. He presented the Committee with his plan for his first 90 days as CITO. His goals are to learn about the organization, understand its priorities, evaluate its current IT environment, and then create a charter to establish an operating model. The Judicial

CITO also provided the Committee with the Judicial Branch's three-year IT Plan and addressed actions taken by the branch to comply with the requirements of 2024 House Sub. for SB 291.

Legislative Branch Updates

Legislative Branch IT Staff and Project Updates

At the March 18, 2024, meeting, the Legislative CITO announced their retirement on June 7, 2024.

At the August 27, 2024, meeting, the Director of Legislative Administrative Services introduced himself to the Committee as the Interim Legislative CITO while the LCC reviews candidates for the permanent CITO. Legislative staff from the Kansas Legislative Office of Information Services (KLOIS) also provided updates on various IT projects, including the legislative computer refresh, Microsoft Exchange migration, data center infrastructure update, and the biennium rollover.

At the September 26, 2024, meeting, KLOIS staff updated the Committee on the Microsoft Exchange migration and stated that 95 percent of the migration was complete.

At the October 30, 2024, meeting, KLOIS staff updated the Committee on the current status of the legislative email migration, legislative laptop refresh, and the necessity to establish a secure wireless network in the Statehouse for use by legislators and legislative staff due to OITS decommissioning the secure network for the Capitol complex.

KLISS Modernization Update

At the August 27, 2024, meeting, KLOIS staff provided an update on the KLISS modernization project. Stating user acceptance testing began on July 8, 2024, with the third round of testing commencing on August 26, 2024. User acceptance testing for system integration to other system components was also scheduled to begin on September 3, 2024. Additionally, the project's steering committee chose to have the new system hosted by the software vendor in a private cloud-managed service.

Cybersecurity Presentations

At the August 27, 2024, meeting, Office of the Revisor of Statutes staff provided the Committee with an overview of 2024 House Sub. for SB 291 regarding the transfer of cybersecurity services to the oversight of each governmental branch's CITO, creating legislative and judicial CISOs, and other cybersecurity-related matters.

KLOIS staff also provided the Committee with an update on cybersecurity initiatives within the Legislative Branch, such as the Legislative Security Operations Center implementation, intrusion prevention and detection practices, new policy implementation aligned with National Institutes of Standards and Technology standards, and other cybersecurity-related topics.

At the October 30, 2024, meeting, KLOIS staff provided an update on ongoing cybersecurity efforts by KLOIS and legislative agencies as well as statistics for how current policies and measures are working.

IT Audits

At the August 27, 2024, meeting, staff from the Legislative Division of Post Audit (LPA) presented to the Committee the Security Controls Across State Agencies and School Districts audit. LPA also presented the security audit for the Board of Indigents' Defense Services to the Committee in Executive Session.

At the October 30, 2024, meeting, LPA staff presented the following IT security audits to the Committee during Executive Session:

- KBI;
- Kansas State Historical Society;
- Larned State Hospital;
- Osawatimie State Hospital; and
- State Department of Education.

Other Presentations

At the September 26, 2024, meeting, Representative Blake Carpenter presented to the Committee on 2024 House Sub. for SB 291, noting work on the legislation will be necessary in future sessions due to the July 1, 2026, sunset of the legislation.

At the October 30, 2024, meeting, the Committee received a presentation on the ABIS project by the KBI. The KBI discussed the differences between the ABIS system compared with the AFIS system it is replacing. Additionally, the agency discussed the historical timeline of the project and what the next steps will be upon project completion.

The Committee also heard a presentation from the Executive Director of KanRen. He provided the Committee with an overview of KanRen, which is a research and education network, and what services the organization provides to its member institutions. He also updated the Committee on the Middle-Mile Partnership that KanRen has entered into with KDOT and the Kansas Office of Broadband Development to build additional fiberoptic infrastructure in parts of the state.

At the November 21, 2024, meeting, staff of the Kansas Legislative Research Department provided the Committee with a memorandum and presentation on current State requirements regarding the retention of personally identifiable information. The staff noted there are no statutes that broadly address retention requirements or set retention lengths on personally identifiable information for governmental entities or the private sector. The staff also discussed the role of the Kansas State Records Board in approving, altering, or denying retention policies for various state agency-submitted records.

A representative of the KC Tech Council presented to the Committee about the impact that IT jobs have on the Kansas and Missouri economies broadly and on the Kansas City metro economy specifically. She noted that in 2023 the technology sector composed 5.7 percent of the Kansas economy as a whole and 9 percent of the Kansas City metro economy. She also addressed IT job growth in Kansas, the gap between open IT jobs and new graduates from Kansas post-secondary institutions, and cost-of-living comparisons between the Kansas City metro and

other cities in the United States with large IT sectors.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

At the November 21, 2024, meeting, Committee members made the following conclusions and recommendations to the 2025 Legislature:

- Review data retention laws, regulations, and best practices. As part of its review, the Legislature should consider practices pertaining to the sale and use of such data by entities offering services to the State and its political subdivisions;
- Review policies pertaining to AI and its use. As part of this review, the Legislature should consider algorithmic bias and discrimination and options for mitigating their possible impacts;
- Review provisions of law created or amended by 2024 House Sub. for SB 291 prior to the repeal of such provisions on July 1, 2026, and seek additional comments and feedback;
- Commend state IT staff for the work they have done to modernize and secure the State's IT infrastructure and equipment and the work toward developing a secure IT culture among state agencies; and
- Request legislation to amend KSA 75-7245 to include the Joint Committee on Information Technology as one of the recipients of the State IT Consolidation Report from the Information Technology Executive Council and the project cost estimates from the Judicial Branch IT Services for county and district court employees.