

Testimony of the Chief of Information Technology Architect

Neutral of Senate Bill 57

Before the Senate Ways & Means Committee

March 20, 2019

Chairwoman McGinn and members of the Committee, my name is Eric Davis and I am the Chief Information Technology Architect (CITA) for the State of Kansas. Thank you for this opportunity to address the committee regarding Senate Bill 57: Requiring review of information technology contracts by the joint committee on information technology.

In my role, I am responsible for working with the Information Technology Executive Council (ITEC) and associated subcommittees to develop and implement statewide IT policies and procedures. I also oversee the current 'IT Project' monitoring efforts through the Kansas Information Technology Office (KITO).

As this bill is currently written, the joint committee would not increase the scope of 'IT Projects' that are required to participate in monitoring activities. It would just add an additional step to those projects that meet the \$3 million threshold.

IT personnel throughout the executive branch have recognized the challenges faced by the current way of defining 'IT Projects' and are working through the existing governance structure to make updates that would effectively close the gaps and update the 'IT Project' definition and method of evaluation.

One of the ITEC subcommittees, the Information Technology Advisory Board (ITAB), is currently in the process of revising and presenting updated policies to ITEC. One of the policies being walked through the due diligence and socialization process with various government entities statewide is the policy and associated statute that define what an 'IT Project' entails. Most organizations have moved to a risk-based model of project evaluation, where Kansas still uses a definition based on static thresholds. The committee plans to have an updated policy and draft legislation for next year's session.

The challenge with the current definition is that like many IT policies and regulations, it has not evolved and been updated at the same speed as technology and the way business is conducted.

Throughout the past year, there have been concerted efforts to revive and utilize the governance structure that currently exists for state IT operations, including the revival of the Information Technology Executive Council and its supporting subcommittees as well as the hiring of the previously vacant role of Chief Information Technology Architect. When this structure and tools are used correctly, the transparency and efficiency of IT operations throughout the state will improve. As the CITA, I am currently looking at the best way to update the state's architecture and Strategic Information Management Plan as well as the 3-year agency IT plans.

Thank you to the Chair and members of the committee for allowing me to present this testimony, subject to your questions, this concludes my testimony.