

LFD REVIEW OF THE STATEWIDE STRATEGIC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PLAN

A Report Prepared for the
Legislative Finance Committee

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INTRODUCTION

Presented in this report is the Legislative Fiscal Division's (LFD) analysis of the 2014 State of Montana Strategic Plan for Information Technology. Part 1 of Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 2-17-505 delivers that it is the policy of the state that information technology be used to improve the quality of life of Montana citizens by providing educational opportunities, creating quality jobs and a favorable business climate, improving government, and protecting individual privacy and the privacy of the information contained within information technology systems. Part 2 of 2-17-5-505, MCA provides that it is the policy of the state that the development of information technology resources must be conducted in an organized, deliberate, and cost-effective manner. The LFD typically provides a summary of the statewide strategic plan with special regard to the fiscal policies and implications by providing a report to the Legislative Fiscal Committee (LFC) in the spring of even numbered years.

The statewide information technology (IT) plan sets the strategic direction for the state in the use of information technology. According to 2-17-522, MCA the plan must be submitted to the Governor by March 1 of even-numbered years and to the LFC at the next scheduled meeting after March 1st. State agencies will develop an agency plan that supports the overall goals and objectives of the state master plan by June 30th of even numbered years. Each agency's plan is then reviewed by the State Information Technology Services Division (SITSD) and certified by the state Chief Information Officer (CIO).

Because the state strategic IT plan is intended to set general direction, identifying exact fiscal impacts are not possible at this time. Rather, an indication of whether an item delivers an increased budget demand or decrease will be given when implied.

STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW AND COMMENTARY

The Strategic Plan for Information Technology in 2014 supports 2-17-505, MCA part (1) by recognizing the five main areas discussed in that passage. 2-17-505, MCA discusses the use of IT with respect to:

- 1) Providing Educational Opportunities
- 2) Creating Quality Jobs
- 3) Creating a Favorable Business Climate
- 4) Improving Government
- 5) Protecting Privacy

One of the primary objectives of the 2014 Strategic Plan is to increase post-secondary education levels. Currently, the state of Montana has a completed college certificate population of 40%. The state strategic plan includes delivering network services that enable online education and remote access to state and government services. These services are to be high quality, anytime, and, anywhere. A mobile solution shall be part of the strategy that would potential support an overall college degree holding population of 60% by 2020.

Another primary objective of the strategic plan is to create jobs and the level of compensation in the state of Montana. Standardizing and sharing IT service where applicable can reduce the number of programs/systems while increasing user familiarity. This improves business climate by standardizing system solutions to both internal and external customers.

A final objective of the strategic plan is to minimize government expenditures and increase the value and impact of state delivered services. The use of cloud and implementing a cyber-security program will be used to support this objective. One specific example of how this strategic goal will be implemented with respect to increasing the value of state delivered IT services is the use of the IT Project Portfolio Listing. The SITSD and the LFD have been working to ensure that level of reporting produced in this report is standard and accurate. Having a standard cost reporting structure, which includes all costs of the project including internal costs, both serves to

ensure accuracy and preserves the integrity of the report. The LFC typically monitors these reports at each committee meeting.

LFC IMPLICATIONS

The LFC committee has no statutory requirement to comment on the state strategic IT plan. However, the plan is presented to the LFC fairly early in the budget process to allow time to identify any major fiscal implications that may be suggested in the plan.

State agencies will use the state strategic plan to develop their agency specific plan. The agency plan should provide, as part of 2-17-524, MCA provide a statement of the agency's mission, goals, and objectives for information technology to provide mission critical services to the state of Montana. The state agency plan should also provide an explanation on how the agency will support the CIO's State Strategic Plan. In addition, the agency plan should provide a baseline of current IT resources and identify deficiencies. Each agency's information technology plan must project activities and costs over a 6 year time period, updating the information every two years. This information is provided to the Office of Budget and Program Planning after CIO acceptance and is used to develop the state budget.

SUMMARY

The state strategic information technology plan provides the state of Montana and agencies a directive to follow in accordance with the Montana Information Technology Act. This year's plan outlines general directives to be used for the state in developing primary planning. In general, the state strategic plan follows the guidelines and supports the Montana Information Technology Act.. However, because the state plan provides broad based direction and no specific initiatives, budgetary impacts of the plan are not available at this time.