

To: House Committee on Legislative Modernization
From: Jeff Maxon, Executive Branch Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO)
Re: Written Neutral Testimony of HB 2842
Date: March 18, 2024

Chairwoman Wasinger and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding House Bill 2842.

Given the responsibility I have in providing central IT services to Executive Branch agencies, it is important to note that among the many changes HB 2842 proposes, four key changes to highlight are:

- Development of a plan for consolidation of all Executive Branch IT staff and services under the Office of Information Technology Services (OITS)
- Establishment of multiple Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) across the three branches and four elected offices
- State adoption of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Cybersecurity Framework
- Changes to the Information Technology Executive Council (ITEC) that will remove the current IT governance structure for the State of Kansas.

While I am in favor of the intent of the bill to provide secure, quality IT services for the State of Kansas, I am neutral on the bill as amendments are necessary before it can move forward.

I recommend to this committee the following high-level amendments, and I can provide additional details as requested.

First, regarding the consolidation of Executive Branch IT staff and services under OITS:

- Clarify what defines a transfer of IT employees.
- Define technology services to include services such as networking and telephony, but do not include business services.

Second, the bill outlines differing responsibilities and requirements for the branch CISOs which could result in varied security policies and standards across the State. Security policies and standards should be consistent across the State to minimize confusion and conflict across the entities.

Third, it is recommended that the authority and responsibilities of ITEC be restored in order to maintain baseline IT policies, standards, and procedures such as the project management and accessibility standards. Without ITEC, entities will be allowed to develop their own policies, standards, and procedures which could halt the progress of standardization and maturing the security posture of the State.

Finally, cybersecurity is everyone's responsibility and not just an IT responsibility. Agency leadership bears responsibility to ensure that their business units adhere to and comply with cybersecurity practices and policies.

We welcome the provided opportunity to analyze the ways to best fund IT operations for the Executive Branch to ensure we are keeping our environment current and secure.

As stated, these recommended amendments are high-level, but they are a beginning step to strengthening the bill and achieving the overall intent.

I am happy to provide any additional information to the Committee.

Thank you,

Jeff Maxon
Executive Branch Chief Information Technology Officer