



Testimony to Government, Technology and Security Committee
March 9, 2017
HB 2359

On March 1, 2017 I attended a meeting at which Phil Wittmer, Executive Branch CITO, presented information on HB 2359 that creates the Kansas Information Technology Enterprise (KITE). I appreciated his willingness to discuss the bill with small agencies. He invited us to make comments at the meeting and to provide him with additional written concerns, which I have done. I have been encouraged to pass the comments on to the Government, Technology, and Security Committee for consideration. The concerns written here are those of my agency, which is highly dependent on IT to meet the needs of the public.

We support the general direction of this bill, especially in the area of IT infrastructure consolidation. However, we want to make sure that we have the ability to carry out our statutory duties in terms of those functions that are unique and specific to our agency.

Need for Agency Specific Applications

The current Kansas Historical Society business plan rests on our ability to create applications specific to our programs. At the March 1 meeting the CITO presented a memo that states, "*KITE acknowledges agency-specific applications and data will need to be operated and maintained by the agencies.*" We would like to see this, or similar language be added to the bill. With this in mind we researched other states that had consolidated IT. Here are examples of wording we think would address our concerns.

1. *"Nothing in this act shall be deemed to limit an executive branch agency head's authority to establish programmatic priorities and business direction for the respective agency."*
2. *"The CITO may exempt from this approval requirement any executive branch agency that establishes, to the satisfaction of the CITO, its ability and willingness to administer efficiently and effectively the procurement of information technology specific to its function."*
3. The following statement defines the definition of an agency-specific application as separate from the IT infrastructure. *"Agency-specific information technology application means software purchased or developed by an executive branch agency to implement a business function unique to the agency."*

Cost of HB 2359

As a small agency the Kansas Historical Society has questions about the cost for implementation of this bill. We would feel more comfortable putting our support behind the bill if we knew the costs for participation in the IT infrastructure being proposed. My understanding is that this information will not be available until the beginning of next fiscal year.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2359.

Jennie Chinn, Executive Director
Kansas State Historical Society
(785) 272-8681 x205
jchinn@kshs.org