



Information Technology and the Role of the Joint Technology Committee

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Information technology (IT) is used by every state agency to make operations more efficient and services more widely available to the citizens of Colorado. Along with other day-to-day expenses of state government, expenses related to IT are paid through the capital construction and operating budget in the state's annual budget bill.

This *issue brief* outlines the types of projects and expenses related to IT, the role of the Joint Technology Committee (JTC) in overseeing the approval and implementation of IT budget requests, and recent major IT projects. The term "information technology" means IT and computer-based equipment and related services designed for the storage, manipulation, and retrieval of data by electronic or mechanical means, or both. The term includes, but is not limited to:

- computers, laptops, servers, network routers, hand-held devices, data storage devices, and all peripheral devices, including communications network equipment and systems;
- related services, feasibility studies, systems design, software, system testing, external storage, and network services, whether provided by state employees or others;
- systems, programs, routines, and processes used to employ and control data processing hardware, including operating systems, utilities, applications, software, and networking programs; and
- the application of electronic information processing hardware, software, or telecommunications to support state government business processes.

Operating budget requests related to the ongoing costs associated with the maintenance of IT systems are reviewed and prioritized by the Joint Budget Committee (JBC). IT operations for state agencies are managed by the Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT). Pursuant to Joint Rule 45, the JTC is responsible for reviewing state agency capital IT budget requests with a total project cost that exceeds \$500,000, regardless of the source of funds, and higher education capital IT budget requests with a total state-funded cost that exceeds \$500,000. Pursuant to Section 24-75-303, C.R.S., a capital construction appropriation remains available to an agency for a period of three years.

Joint Technology Committee

The JTC is charged with reviewing major IT projects, prioritizing IT budget requests, forecasting the state's need for future IT budget requests, and reviewing IT legislation. Established in 2013 and pursuant to Section 2-3-1702, C.R.S., the JTC is a statutory, six-member committee of the Colorado Senate and House of Representatives. Prior to FY 2014-15, IT budget requests were considered capital construction budget requests and were reviewed by the Capital Development Committee (CDC). Starting in FY 2015-16, the JTC began reviewing all major IT budget requests. The committee is required to meet at least once a year to consider IT budget requests and other IT issues. The JTC reports recommendations, prioritization, findings, and comments regarding IT budget requests to the JBC for inclusion in the capital construction section of the state's annual budget bill (i.e., the Long Bill). The JBC may also seek the

JTC's review of any operating budget request for IT.

Members of the JTC. The JTC consists of three members of the Senate and three members of the House of Representatives. Two Senate members are chosen by the Senate President and one by the Senate Minority Leader. Two of the House members are appointed by the Speaker of the House and one by the House Minority Leader. Members of the JTC must be appointed after the general election, but prior to the convening of the General Assembly. The committee elects a chair and vice-chair, one from the House and one from the Senate, both of whom serve for the first regular session. They switch roles for the second session.

Committee oversight. The JTC has oversight responsibility for OIT, which includes reviewing and prioritizing significant IT projects and ensuring that IT projects follow best practice standards. This oversight does not include interference with the general responsibilities of OIT. Other JTC oversight responsibilities of OIT include:

- emergency acquisitions of IT resources;
- annual updates to the statewide IT plan;
- the state's Chief Information Security Officer and his or her duties; and
- any IT purchased or implemented by a state agency that does not follow the standards set by OIT or is not approved through OIT.

Legislative service agency directors are also required to maintain an information security plan and keep the JTC advised of the plan.

Reporting requirements. The JTC is required to submit a written report on the committee's findings and recommendations to the JBC by the first day of each regular legislative session. The report may include recommended legislation, any other information pertaining to approved IT budget requests, and a report on the status of multi-year IT projects. State agencies are encouraged to submit an annual written report on or before November 1 to the JTC concerning IT

matters not managed by OIT. Additionally, if a vacancy arises for the Legislative Branch position on the Government Data Advisory Board, it must be filled by a JTC member.

Recent Major IT Projects

The JTC has approved numerous major IT projects since FY 2015-16. Some recent examples of major IT projects are listed below. More information on major IT projects can be found [here](#).

Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS). CBMS supports eligibility for Medicaid and human service programs and is used by more than 5,000 county and medical assistance site employees. Colorado counties, who administer the assistance programs that CBMS processes, are some of the primary users of CBMS. The project was completed in August 2019.

DeCORuM. The DeCORuM project replaces a legacy computer system within the Department of Corrections (DOC) with a new electronic information management system to track and record offender data from admission until release from parole. In FY 2019-20, DOC requested an additional three years of spending authority for the appropriated funding, which was set to expire in 2020. The JBC approved this time-extension request, and DOC can use DeCORuM appropriated funding until June 2023.

DRIVES. The DRIVES project replaced the outdated Driver License System and Colorado State Titling and Registration System with a modern, web-based system. The Department of Revenue, in cooperation with OIT, purchased a commercial off-the-shelf replacement software solution to unify the two systems into one master system. The project was fully implemented in August 2018. In FY 2019-20, \$18.8 million of state funds appropriated for the DRIVES project were reverted back to the Information Technology Capital Account in the Capital Construction Fund.