

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
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As Engrossed: H3/11/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1557

By: Representative R. Scott Richardson

By: Senator J. Bryant

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE DIVISION OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS CONCERNING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY; TO AMEND THE DEFINITIONS UNDER THE ARKANSAS CODE RELATED TO THE DIVISION OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE DIVISION OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS CONCERNING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 25-4-103(6), concerning the definition of "information technology" as it applies to the Division of Information Systems, is amended to read as follows:

(6) "Information technology" means ~~any component related to information processing and wired and wireless telecommunications, including data processing and telecommunications hardware, software, services, planning, personnel, facilities, and training~~ the use, development, management, and application of computer systems, networks, and electronic data processing to collect, store, process, transmit, retrieve, and secure information and includes without limitation:

- (1) Hardware;
- (2) Software;
- (3) Networking and telecommunications;
- (4) Data management;



- (5) Cybersecurity;
- (6) Privacy;
- (7) Third-party hosting; and
- (8) Emerging technology;

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 25-4-105(a)(2)(R), concerning the development of a state information technology plan by the Division of Information Systems, is amended to read as follows:

~~(R) Developing a state information technology plan that shall establish a state level mission, goals, and objectives for the use of information technology~~ Developing, implementing, and maintaining a unified biennial statewide information technology plan through analysis of information technology plans developed by each state agency that includes:

- (i) A statewide disaster recovery plan that identifies risks in each budget unit and directs state agencies to adopt risk mitigation strategies, methods, and procedures to minimize risks;
- (ii) A list of approved state agency projects by category;
- (iii) A detailed list of information technology assets that are owned, leased, or employed by the state; and
- (iv) Detailed budget information for each state agency's approved technology plan;

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 25, Chapter 4, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

25-4-130. Statewide information technology – Duties and powers.

(a) In addition to the duties under § 25-4-105, the Division of Information Systems shall:

- (1) Administer the state's information technology;
- (2) Provide statewide project management for any information technology projects, including without limitation procedures for the:
 - (A) Assessment of viability, operational efficiencies, and cost-benefit analysis of a proposed project;
 - (B) Determination of whether a joint project or system is appropriate, including without limitation:
 - (i) Methods for the approval and prioritization of

projects that aim to eliminate duplicative and overlapping services and maximize information technology cost savings; and

(ii) Publication to each state agency of an annual priority standards list that each project will be evaluated against for approval;

(3)(A) Establish and enforce statewide minimum mandatory standards for information technology that apply to all state agencies, including without limitation executive departments.

(B) The standards of a state agency may be more stringent than the statewide minimum standards, but in no case less than the minimum standards.

(C) When federal standards apply that are stricter than statewide minimum standards, the federal standards shall apply;

(4) Develop performance reporting guidelines and requirements for information technology systems and conduct an annual review to compare state agency plans and budgets with results and expenditures;

(5) Establish a centralized information technology governance model to provide uniformity and procurement oversight for information technology across state agencies, including without limitation:

(A) Defining clear roles, responsibilities, and decision-making authority at the state and department levels;

(B) Creation of an information technology governance team to prioritize initiatives and allocate resources effectively;

(C) Identifying areas for cost reduction by eliminating duplication of efforts and procurement of information technology; and

(D) Increasing the state's purchasing power by negotiating enterprise pricing for information technology; and

(6) Provide a report on the statewide information technology plan and projects annually to the Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology that includes without limitation:

(A) Overall metrics for system performance costs;

(B) A comparison of expected costs to actual costs after project completion;

(C) User satisfaction analysis; and

(D) A project approval matrix for the next following fiscal year.

(b) A state agency shall not:

(1) Use state, federal, or public grant funds for or enter into any agreement for the acquisition, development, or enhancement of any information technology or any contract for information technology services without approval from the Director of the Division of Information Systems unless:

(A) The purchase price of the product or service is less than or equal to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and the product is included on an approved information technology list maintained by the division; or

(B) The purchase price of the product or service is more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) but less than or equal to twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), the product is listed on a statewide contract, and the product is included on an approved information technology list maintained by the division; or

(2) Develop or enter into a contract for the development of customized software or information technology systems without written authorization by the director.

/s/R. Scott Richardson