

Vermont Legislative Council

115 State Street • Montpelier, VT 05633-5301 • (802) 828-2231 • Fax: (802) 828-2424

MEMORANDUM

To: Sen. Peg Flory, Chair of the Senate Committee on Institutions

From: Luke Martland, Director and Chief Counsel

Date: March 24, 2016

Subject: General Assembly Information Technology

As you requested, I met with the Senate Secretary, John Bloomer, and the House Clerk, William MaGill. They suggested that the Office of Legislative Council be reorganized, for example by putting committee services and IT under the management of either the Clerk and Secretary or all staff offices. I cannot agree to this proposal. As a result, I am submitting my own ideas concerning how best to structure Information Technology (IT) within the General Assembly.

My proposal is as follows:

- The IT unit should be made into a fully independent office, equal to the existing staff offices. This would mean that IT would no longer be part of the Office of Legislative Council.
- All IT staff, projects, consultant services, and all other IT services should be handled by this office and centralized under the jurisdiction of this office.
- The new IT office should report directly to one standing or oversight committee. This would be a similar structure to how the Office of Legislative Council is overseen by the Legislative Council Committee and how JF0 is overseen by the Joint Fiscal Committee.
- Other staff offices, either individually or together as the Staff Information Systems Team, should not have any role in overseeing this new office.
- Committee services, operations, and legal would remain part of Legislative Council.

I believe this proposal will build on the great work that has been done to improve IT over the last four years, and will ensure that IT continues to be well managed and that tax payer dollars are spent wisely.