



## STATE OF VERMONT

### MEMORANDUM

To: <Recipient>  
From: Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee  
Date: November 13, 2019  
Subject: List of Recommendations for the 2020 Legislative Session

#### I. Introduction

The Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee (JITOC) has met on a monthly basis since the end of the 2019 legislative session. During this time, JITOC was primarily focused on understanding the federal and State cybersecurity landscape. In addition, JITOC also received updates from the Executive and Judicial branches on key State information technology projects. JITOC heard from a number of witnesses on these subjects, including the Secretary of Digital Services, the Chief Information Officer for the Judiciary, the Director of Legislative Information Technology, the Chief Auditor, the Secretary of State, the Commissioner of Human Resources, the Agency of Human Services, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, the Attorney General's Office, the Office of Legislative Council, and the Joint Fiscal Office.

#### II. Recommendations

Pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 614, the Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee recommends the following priorities and actions for the 2020 Legislative Session:

- Recommend to the committees of jurisdiction that they address workforce development initiatives in the Information Technology profession, including reviewing State employment needs, the promotion of the profession, secondary and post-secondary training, and deficiencies in pay;
- Review federal and State statutory provisions on cybercrimes to determine any deficiencies, and request an opinion from the Attorney General's Office on whether any statutes need to be modernized;
- Develop an information technology risk assessment process within State government to ensure that the State prioritize the information technology risks that it faces, respond effectively to those risks, and have a process in place to raise inadequate risk response to the Legislature for action (the process should involve the Agency of Digital Services, other Executive branch agencies, the

legislative committees of jurisdiction and, for independent oversight, the State Auditor<sup>1</sup>;

- Propose legislation to create an annual reporting requirement to the Legislature on Level 3,4, and 5 cybersecurity incidents, by system, and require State agencies and entities accessing State- collected or -generated data to develop data backup protocols;
- Recommend to committees of jurisdiction to understand the Administration's prioritization of risk in the system, including which IT systems are at greatest risk for theft of Vermonters' data and which systems disruption would pose the greatest threat to public safety;
- Fund a third-party assessment of cybersecurity risks posed by local governments to the State systems, and develop parameters with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, in conjunction with the Secretary of State's Office and the Agency of Digital Services;
- Require new IT project funding proposals to report on the compatibility between existing and proposed technologies;
- Create a Joint Cybersecurity Council to plan and oversee cooperation and communication on cybersecurity issues between the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative Branches;
- Assess and report on vulnerabilities legislators pose to State systems, and recommend periodic legislator training on cybersecurity;
- Evaluate the need and cost for a legislative expert (either an individual or firm) on cybersecurity to provide regular technical assistance to the Legislature in its oversight role for cybersecurity; and
- Consider funding an innovation fund within the Agency of Digital Services for the purposes of addressing one-time cybersecurity upgrades or fixes.

### III. Status of Information Technology Projects

JITOC also heard from the Agency of Human Services regarding the Integrated Eligibility and Enrollment Program, and we will be carefully monitoring the cyber-security work of the tri-branch working group.

---

<sup>1</sup> We are concerned the State Auditor may be under-resourced to fulfill that mission.