

Information Technology Governance

LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

Presented To:
Assembly Select Committee on
Information Technology and the High-Tech Workforce





Recent Governance History

- Office of Information Technology
(Department of Finance)**
 - 1983 - 1994

- Department of Information Technology**
 - 1995 - 2002

- Interim Technology Oversight and Security Unit
(Department of Finance)**
 - 2003



Key Objectives for IT Governance

Leadership

- Provides direction and guidance.
- Sets goals and priorities.
- Develops plans and policies.

Accountability

- Defines roles and responsibilities.
- Designates specific authority and powers.
- Helps the public hold government responsible.

Oversight

- Monitors IT projects and expenditures.
- Directs corrective actions to problematic IT projects.
- Provides information for budget and policy decisions.



Administration's Proposal

State Chief Information Officer (CIO)

- Develops state's IT strategic plan.
- Reviews departments' IT strategic plans.

IT Board

- Includes State CIO, Directors of the Departments of Finance and General Services, two appointees of the State CIO (one appointee must be from a college or university), and two non-voting legislative members.
- Approves or denies state IT strategic plan.
- Conducts public oversight hearings on projects and state-wide initiatives.
- Suspends, reinstates, or terminates projects.

Department of Finance

- Develops policies for the review, approval, management, and oversight of IT projects and security of state IT systems.
- Assesses departments' management and oversight of IT projects and presents assessments to IT board.
- Recommends the suspension, reinstatement, or termination of IT projects to IT board.
- Requires departments to correct problematic IT projects.

Department of General Services

- Develops procurement policies.
- Reviews and monitors state procurements.



Assessment of Administration's Proposal

Areas of Strength

- Development of a statewide IT strategic plan.
- Oversight framework for IT projects.
- Public hearings on IT initiatives and projects.

Areas of Weakness

- Role and composition of the IT board.
- Unclear priorities.
- Limited legislative role.



Potential Solutions to Proposal's Weaknesses

Role and Composition of the IT Board

- Provide board with sufficient independent authority.
- Enhance board's role in setting strategic direction for state IT.
- Limit the number of administration representatives.
- Broaden representation on the board to include individuals with appropriate management, organizational, and IT backgrounds.
- Eliminate legislative members.
- Set the tenure of members for staggered, fixed terms.

Unclear Priorities

- Set priorities such as overseeing and correcting problematic IT projects, role of state's data centers, and establishment of common systems.
- Set specific timeframes to meet priorities.

Limited Legislative Role

- Approve statewide IT strategic plan.
- Maintain oversight of problematic IT projects.
- Require Senate confirmation of IT board members.