



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 2, 2025
Harvest Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Representative Glenn Bosch, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members present: Representatives Glenn Bosch, Dori Hauck, Doug Osowski, Nathan Toman, Jonathan Warrey, Robin Weisz; Senators Michelle Axtman, Kyle Davison, Mark Enget, Mike Wobbema; Citizen Member Corey Mock

Members absent: Senator Jonathan Sickler; Citizen Member Robert Hobbelman

Others present: Jennifer Illich, FirstLink; Charlie Kratsch, Infinite Campus
Levi Kinnischtzke, Legislative Council, Bismarck
See [Appendix A](#) for additional persons present.

It was moved by Representative Weisz, seconded by Senator Wobbema, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the August 20, 2025, meeting be approved as distributed.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT REPORTING

Mr. Justin Data, Director, Project Management Office, Information Technology Department, presented information ([Appendix B](#)) regarding major information technology project reporting and project startup and closeout reports ([Appendix C](#)) completed since August 2025. He presented an overview of the portfolio of major programs and projects. He noted of the 55 ongoing major projects, 2 projects are more than 20 percent behind schedule: the Bed Management System and the vital records modernization projects of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Mr. Greg Hoffman, Deputy Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Department, presented information ([Appendix D](#)) regarding the Information Technology Department annual report, including a review of the department's financial information, turnover rate, and key focus areas.

In response to a question from a committee member, Mr. Hoffman noted the department meets with agencies during the ratesetting process to explain cost increases.

EDUCATION INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UPDATES

Higher Education Major Projects

Mr. Corey Quirk, Chief Information Officer, North Dakota University System, presented information ([Appendix E](#)) regarding the most recent quarterly summary status report ([Appendix F](#)) and project closeout report completed during the quarter ([Appendix G](#)). He noted:

- The University of North Dakota NetX Project has been completed. The project was behind schedule by 1 month, but was completed on budget.
- There are currently no major University System projects in the planning or execution phases.

K-12 Student Information System Transition

Mr. Tony Ambrose, Bridge Project Executive Lead, Department of Public Instruction, presented information ([Appendix H](#)) regarding the K-12 student information system transition from PowerSchool to Infinite Campus. He noted:

- The go-live date for the Infinite Campus system is July 1, 2026.
- A vendor, Consultadd, has been selected to assist school districts with data migration and the transition to the new student information system.
- While the department is working to mitigate known risks, unknown issues likely will arise during the transition to the new system.

Mr. Charlie Kratsch, Chief Executive Officer, Infinite Campus, presented information ([Appendix I](#)) regarding the new student information system being implemented by Infinite Campus. He noted:

- A major challenge in statewide implementations is engaging smaller school districts, which constitute the majority of North Dakota districts. These districts can be difficult to contact and risk being overlooked without targeted support.
- Artificial intelligence applications in the new student information system may be used to assist teachers in the classroom to improve student outcomes.

STUDY OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION FEES

FirstLink and 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Funding

Ms. Jennifer Illich, Executive Director, FirstLink, presented testimony ([Appendix J](#)) regarding the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and 211 services ([Appendix K](#)). She noted:

- North Dakota call volumes have increased significantly in recent years, from less than 4,000 calls in 2022, to an estimated 12,500 calls in 2025.
- Due to staffing shortages, more than 3,000 calls were routed to out-of-state backup centers in 2024, with 3,700 calls estimated to be routed to backup centers in 2025.

In response to a question from a committee member, Ms. Illich noted when calls roll over to backup centers, there is no direct monetary cost for the call; however, the state incurs costs through higher levels of service intervention, such as increased emergency medical services dispatching and the loss of local service referrals.

In response to questions from committee members, Mr. Grant Gader, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Council, provided information regarding 988 Crisis Hotline Program state funding. He noted the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$2,367,500 from the Community Health Trust Fund for the 988 Crisis Hotline Program during the 2025-27 biennium.

Statewide Interoperable Radio Network Funding

Mr. Craig Felchle, Chief Technology Officer, Information Technology Department, presented information ([Appendix L](#)) regarding the funding and status of the Statewide Interoperable Radio Network (SIRN). He noted:

- The \$0.50 fee on assessed communication services generates approximately \$4.8 million per year, while the ongoing operational expenses of SIRN are estimated at \$10 million to \$12 million per year.
- Future SIRN costs will not be consistent each year due to intermittent hardware upgrades.

In response to a question from a committee member, Mr. Eric Pederson, Public Safety Manager, Information Technology Department, noted traffic fees may not be used as a funding source for SIRN, because the Constitution of North Dakota requires all proceeds from violations of state law to be deposited in the Common Schools Trust Fund.

Chairman Bosch noted the SIRN Fund balance of \$22.6 million is sufficient for the 2025-27 biennium, but a long-term funding solution is required thereafter for ongoing SIRN operations.

STUDY OF THE ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING SYSTEM

Enterprise Resource Planning Systems in Other States

Mr. Gader presented a memorandum entitled [Enterprise Resource Planning Systems in Other States](#), detailing modernization efforts, strategies, and issues in other states. He noted direct comparisons are challenging because every state manages enterprise resource planning (ERP) system functions differently, though there is a trend of states migrating existing ERP systems to the cloud or adopting new, cloud-based systems.

Mr. Corey Mock, Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Department, presented information ([Appendix M](#)) regarding ERP systems in other states. He noted:

- Minimal overlap exists between ERP system functionality in North Dakota compared to systems in other states.
- Inaction regarding the replacement of the aging ERP system is a decision in itself. He suggested the state make a decision soon because the University System has critical needs.

State Agency Enterprise Resource Planning System Needs

Mr. John Wohl, ConnectND Program Manager, Information Technology Department, presented information ([Appendix N](#)) regarding the utility and challenges of the ERP system and provided information regarding the ongoing Oracle business value assessment. He noted:

- The department is preparing to issue a request for information to gather market data for potential ERP solutions.
- Preliminary analysis indicates modernization could result in significant improvements to operational efficiency.

Mr. Mock noted preliminary results from Oracle's business value assessment indicate upgrading the ERP system and processes could potentially reduce the time staff spend on redundant data entry and work processes within state government by 811,000 hours per year.

Mr. Joe Goplin, Director, State Financial Services, Office of Management and Budget, presented information regarding the limitations of the ConnectND finance module. He noted:

- Oracle continues to provide updates to ConnectND, but updates are less frequent than with modern cloud ERP systems.
- ConnectND is heavily dependent on batched and scheduled processing.
- The software offers limited opportunities for automation and uses inconsistent manual processes implemented across state agencies. Office of Management and Budget staff run approximately 50 queries each month during the payroll process to detect errors.
- PeopleSoft software lacks grantor functions within its grant management software. Consequently, 14 state entities have requested waivers to procure individual versions of grant management software.

Ms. Molly Herrington, Chief People Officer, Office of Management and Budget, presented information regarding the human capital management component of ConnectND. She noted recruitment and onboarding processes remain highly manual in the system.

Higher Education Enterprise Resource Planning System Needs

Mr. Quirk presented information ([Appendix O](#)) regarding the University System's ERP needs. He noted:

- The student information system module is the most critical ERP module for higher education institutions.

- The University System is using outdated, inefficient workflows with the ERP system.
- If the University System were to pursue a stand-alone ERP modernization separate from the state, the estimated cost would be between \$100 million and \$145 million.

In response to a question from a committee member, Mr. Wohl noted the state and University System acquiring a system together would provide leverage for licensing negotiations and facilitate shared technical expertise.

In response to a question from a committee member, Mr. Levi Kinnischtzke, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Council, noted:

- The ConnectND system was funded through a \$7.5 million General Fund appropriation and a \$20 million bond issuance.
- Debt service for the bond issuance was provided from state agency fees and higher education student fees.
- State agencies paid a monthly charge of \$12.58 per full-time equivalent position and \$6.68 per \$1 million appropriated.
- The University System charged student fees ranging from \$42 to \$81 per semester during the system implementation phase.
- When the bonds were paid off in 2013, the State Board of Higher Education reduced the ConnectND fee from \$81 to \$66 per student per semester to fund ongoing system support.

No further business appearing, Chairman Bosch adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

Grant Gader
Fiscal Analyst

ATTACH:15