INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 8, 2026
Roughrider Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Representative Glenn Bosch, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:59 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 Members Corey Mock, Jennifer Witham

Member absent: Senator Jonathan Sickler

Others present: Jennifer Illich, FirstLink; Joe Morrissette, Office of Management and Budget; Chris Gergen, Information Technology Department
See Appendix A for additional persons present.
**Attended remotely*

It was moved by Representative Toman, seconded by Senator Axtman, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the March 26, 2026, meeting be approved as distributed.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT REPORTING

Major Project Reporting

Mr. Justin Data, Director, Project Management Office, Information Technology Department, presented information (Appendix B) regarding the quarterly summary status report on major information technology projects (Appendix C) and project startup and closeout reports (Appendix D) completed since March 2026. He noted:

- As of June 30, 2026, the 51 "in-flight" projects had a baseline cost of $420.35 million and were approximately $463,000 under budget and 5.24 percent behind schedule.
- The Industrial Commission grants management system project is 20 percent behind schedule with final issues being resolved. The Department of Transportation roadway preconstruction project is 45 percent behind schedule due primarily to vendor delays.

Annual Report

Mr. Greg Hoffman, Deputy Chief Information Officer and Chief Financial Officer, Information Technology Department, presented information (Appendix E) regarding the department's 2024-25 annual report. He noted the report includes active project information, service rate comparisons with peer states, records management information, results of the 2025 customer satisfaction survey, and financial statements showing fiscal year 2025 service fund revenues of $106.7 million and expenses of $111.3 million.

Mainframe Retirement

Mr. Craig Felchle, Chief Technology Officer, Information Technology Department, presented information (Appendix F) regarding efforts to retire the state mainframe. He noted:

- Remaining work includes application modernization and data migration for the Department of Heath and Human Services and the Department of Transportation.
- Major risks include limited staff availability, loss of institutional knowledge, federal approval and certification requirements, data cleanup and retention, and complex system integrations.

Cybersecurity Services

Mr. Chris Gergen, Chief Information Security Officer, Information Technology Department, presented information (Appendix G) regarding cybersecurity services provided to state agencies and political subdivisions. He noted:

- The department may enter memorandums of understanding or mutual aid agreements with state, local, and tribal governments to provide cybersecurity consulting, strategy, prevention, and response services.
- Participation in cybersecurity maturity assessments declined from 42 percent in 2020 to 16 percent during the 2025-26 interim. Although reported maturity scores increased, low participation limits the department's ability to assess statewide risk.
- Entities may receive a 4 percent North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund premium discount by using the department's endpoint protection and vulnerability scanning services and completing the cybersecurity maturity assessment annually.

In response to a question from a committee member, Mr. Corey Mock, Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Department, noted the department does not have resources to audit the accuracy of self-reported assessments.

Federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program

Mr. Felchle presented information (Appendix H) regarding the status of the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program. He noted the state's allocation totals $130.2 million, including $102.1 million of nondeployment funding awaiting federal direction. Approved awards include $5.9 million to BEK Communications Cooperative to serve 257 locations and $192,000 to Midco to serve 22 locations. The awards are anticipated to provide broadband service to all remaining identified unserved or underserved locations in the state, with construction expected to be completed by the end of 2027.

EMERGENCY AND CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS

Emergency Services Communications Coordinating Committee

Mr. Jason Horning, Next Generation 911 Program Manager, North Dakota Association of Counties, presented information (Appendix I) on behalf of the Emergency Services Communications Coordinating Committee regarding assessed communications services fee revenue and recommended changes to emergency services communications standards. He noted:

- In 2025, counties received $18.4 million from postpaid communications service fees. Of this amount, $4.8 million was transferred to the Statewide Interoperable Radio Network and $1 million to the Next Generation 911 joint powers entity. The Next Generation 911 joint powers entity also received $1 million from prepaid wireless fees, and counties and cities provided $12.6 million from local general funds to support 911 operations.
- Quarterly prepaid wireless fee deposits to the joint powers entity declined from a typical range of $240,000 to $320,000, to $157,000 in January 2026 and $104,000 in April 2026. He further noted the decline may be attributable to a change in the interpretation of the statutory definition of "prepaid wireless service" under North Dakota Century Code Chapter 57-40.6.

988 and 211 Crisis Services

Ms. Jennifer Illich, Executive Director, FirstLink, presented information (Appendix J) regarding 988 and 211 crisis services and funding needs for the 2027-29 biennium. She noted:

- FirstLink received more than 21,000 North Dakota 988 calls, texts, and chats in 2025 and handled more than 88,000 contacts across all services. More than 5,200 North Dakota 988 contacts were routed to national backup centers because local staff were unavailable.
- FirstLink has requested 2027-29 biennium funding through the Department of Health and Human Services to add 26 additional staff, increase local response capacity, and reduce reliance on national backup centers.

In response to a question from a committee member, Ms. Illich noted FirstLink applied for Rural Health Transformation Program funding, but eligibility is uncertain due to an inability to determine callers' rural status.

K-12 STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM UPDATE

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

- PowerSchool servers were decommissioned on June 30, 2026, after final backups were completed. Core data migration was completed, and remaining special education data and documents are expected to be migrated before the start of the school year.
- The department is maintaining certain statewide longitudinal data system functionality using data through June 30, 2026, while developing long-term solutions for incorporating data collected after June 30, 2026.

STUDY OF THE ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING SYSTEM

Mr. Grant Gader, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Council, presented a memorandum entitled *Study of the Enterprise Resource Planning System - Summary Memorandum*. He noted:

- ConnectND became operational in 2004, includes approximately 7,000 customizations, and costs approximately $15 million per biennium to host and support. Oracle has provided rolling 10-year support extensions for the software for each of the last 8 years, most recently renewing support for the software through 2037.
- A request for information included demonstrations from four vendors. Oracle and Workday were the only vendors offering financial, human resources, and student modules. Estimated implementation costs ranged from $13 million to $102 million and annual estimates ranged from $2 million to $6 million for the scopes presented. A request for proposal likely would result in higher estimates.
- The state and the North Dakota University System could acquire a system jointly or separately, but preparation and strategy work are needed before implementation.

Mr. Corey Quirk, Chief Information Officer, North Dakota University System, noted the University System continues to support enterprise resource planning system modernization and is collaborating with the Office of Management and Budget and Information Technology Department.

Mr. Joe Morrissette, Director, Office of Management and Budget, noted:

- The Office of Management and Budget, Information Technology Department, and University System are collaborating on a request for proposal for an enterprise resource planning system solution.
- A proposal may be included in the executive budget for the 2027 legislative session, with a request for proposals used to refine cost estimates during the session.
- Under such a proposal, the Office of Management and Budget would lead procurement and include the related funding in its budget request.

In response to questions from committee members, Mr. Morrissette and Mr. Quirk noted procuring a solution jointly could provide economies of scale and leverage when negotiating pricing and capabilities, while separate system instances could accommodate the unique needs of state agencies and higher education.

No further business appearing, Chairman Bosch adjourned the meeting at 1:51 p.m.

Grant Gader
Fiscal Analyst

ATTACH: 10