Legislative Council
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58505

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 24, 2026
Harvest Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Representative Glenn Bosch, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Members present: Representatives Glenn Bosch, Doug Osowski, Nathan Toman, Jonathan Warrey, Robin Weisz; Senators Michelle Axtman, Mark Enget, Jonathan Sickler, Mike Wobbema; Citizen Members Corey Mock, Jennifer Witham

Members absent: Representative Dori Hauck; Senator Kyle Davison

Others present: Casey Bourbonnais, Secure Yeti; Joshua C. Gallion, State Auditor; Joe Morrissette, Office of Management and Budget
See Appendix A for additional persons present.

It was moved by Representative Toman, seconded by Representative Warrey, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the July 8, 2026, meeting be approved as distributed.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT REPORTING

Major Information Technology Projects

Mr. Justin Data, Manager, Project Management Office, Information Technology Department, presented information (Appendix B) regarding the most recent quarterly summary status report on major information technology (IT) projects (Appendix C) and project startup and closeout reports (Appendix D) completed since July 2026. He noted as of September 21, 2026, the department reported 52 ongoing projects with a baseline cost of $423.61 million. The projects collectively were approximately $427,000 under budget and 3.86 percent behind schedule. He further noted the Industrial Commission's grants management project closed approximately 22 percent behind schedule, met its objectives, and was near its budget. He noted the Department of Transportation's roadway preconstruction project was undergoing replanning to reflect approved scope changes.

Strategic and Business Continuity Planning

Mr. Corey Mock, Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Department, presented information (Appendix E) regarding the department's strategic and business continuity planning, pursuant to North Dakota Century Code Sections 54-35-15.2(3) and 54-59-06. He identified resilient infrastructure, sustainable systems, and statewide readiness as department priorities. He provided comments regarding efforts to replace legacy applications and the use of service delivery teams to improve coordination with state agencies.

Statewide Information Technology Plan

Mr. Data presented information (Appendix F) regarding statewide IT planning, pursuant to Sections 54-35-15.2(7) and 54-59-11. He noted the annual statewide IT plan was not finalized and was expected to be available later in 2026. He identified five statewide initiatives: rationalizing applications, reducing technical debt, leveraging the North Dakota Gateway, maximizing IT security, and modernizing data. He noted the final plan would include estimated costs and additional initiatives.

In response to a question from a committee member, Mr. Data noted agencies are not billed for initial planning discussions with the department. He further noted planning for the current biennium identified approximately 16 percent of the IT project requests subsequently received. He noted challenges in identifying technology components of agency initiatives and obtaining information early in the planning process.

In response to questions from committee members, Mr. Mock noted agencies may not identify technology needs within projects until after funding decisions have been made.

Proposed Major Information Technology Projects

Mr. Data presented information (Appendix G) regarding proposed major IT projects and related planning for the 2027-29 biennium, pursuant to Section 54-35-15.2(13). He noted the preliminary list included 13 projects totaling approximately $90 million, excluding the enterprise resource planning system and anticipated Department of Health and Human Services projects. He further noted the department identified approximately 90 IT initiatives through its planning process and review of agency decision packages. The initiatives were assessed for alignment with statewide strategies but had not been ranked by priority.

In response to questions from committee members, Mr. Mock noted development of the citizen services portion of the North Dakota Gateway project was ongoing and some proposed projects could be revised to serve multiple agencies through the Gateway portal. Mr. Data noted internal applications may not need to be included in the public-facing portal.

Statewide Longitudinal Data System

Mr. Tracy Korsmo, Statewide Longitudinal Data System Program Manager, Information Technology Department, presented a report (Appendix H) regarding the Statewide Longitudinal Data System pursuant to Section 54-59-36. He reviewed data collected relating to K-12 education, higher education, workforce outcomes, and juvenile justice. He noted potential expansion into early childhood, workforce training, and apprenticeship data.

In response to questions from committee members, Mr. Korsmo noted agencies are coordinating data collection efforts and using common standards to avoid duplicating work. He noted the student information system's transition to Infinite Campus would require changes to the Statewide Longitudinal Data System's data collection processes and additional work to restore the previous level of detail and quality.

In response to a question from a committee member, Mr. Korsmo noted individuals control when and with whom their verifiable digital credentials are shared, without requiring the issuing entity to participate in each transaction.

2027-29 Biennium Budget Request

Mr. Greg Hoffman, Deputy Chief Information Officer and Chief Financial Officer, Information Technology Department, presented information (Appendix I) regarding the department's 2027-29 biennium budget request and optional adjustment requests. He identified four areas of emphasis: cybersecurity modernization and risk mitigation, enterprise efficiency and digital transformation, data and artificial intelligence, and operational resilience and public safety. He noted the requests remained subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget and the Governor.

In response to questions from committee members, Mr. Hoffman noted the department evaluates the costs and service capabilities of using department staff, private vendors, or a combination of both as part of its ratesetting and service planning processes.

EDUCATION INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UPDATES

North Dakota University System

Mr. Corey Quirk, Chief Information Officer, North Dakota University System, presented information (Appendix J) regarding the most recent quarterly summary status report on major IT projects and project

startup and closeout reports. He noted no projects started or closed during the second calendar quarter. He reported the disaster recovery second site project was approximately 23 percent behind schedule due to site selection and networking issues.

K-12 Student Information System

Mr. Levi Erdmann, Director of Information Technology and Data Services, Department of Public Instruction, presented information (Appendix K) regarding the K-12 student information system transition. He noted PowerSchool was deactivated on June 30, 2026, all districts transitioned from implementation to vendor support, and Infinite Campus was supporting school operations.

In response to questions from committee members, Mr. Erdmann noted Infinite Campus is responsible for product support, while the department provides guidance regarding state and federal reporting requirements. He further noted EduTech offers a technology coordinator service to school districts and the department has no immediate plans to engage an additional support vendor.

EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. Jason Horning, Next Generation 911 Program Manager, North Dakota Association of Counties, presented information (Appendix L) on behalf of the Emergency Services Communications Coordinating Committee (Appendix M) regarding the committee's biennial report (Appendix N) pursuant to Section 57-40.6-12. He noted:

- 911 fee revenue increased by 4 percent and expenditures decreased by 2 percent from 2023 to 2025.
- Approximately 254,000 calls were received in 2025, 12 percent fewer than in 2023.
- Longer-term trends show steady revenues and increasing costs.
- All public safety answering points are expected to be configured to receive Next Generation 911 calls by the end of 2026.

Mr. Horning noted the coordinating committee recommended revising the definition of prepaid wireless service and reviewing emergency communications statutes to reflect current technology and governance and clarify responsibilities relating to 911 and the Statewide Interoperable Radio Network.

STUDY OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION FEES

Public Safety Answering Point Structure

Mr. Horning provided comments regarding a concept for regionalizing public safety answering points. He noted the concept would provide for fewer, larger public safety answering points, shared backup capabilities, pooled local resources, and shared technology purchases. He noted preliminary estimates indicated the regionalization and proposed fee changes could reduce annual costs by approximately $12.4 million and provide for approximately $6.8 million in additional annual revenue for local 911 services. He further noted the concept and estimates require further study and consultation with the public safety community before implementation.

Mr. Horning suggested increasing the mandatory, uniform $1.50 monthly local 911 fee to $2.00. He also suggested eliminating the separate 50-cent Statewide Interoperable Radio Network fee, which would require a new funding source for the Statewide Interoperable Radio Network. He noted most users would continue paying $2.00, while users in 11 counties currently charging $1.50 would pay an additional 50 cents.

Prepaid Wireless Service Bill Draft

Mr. Grant Gader, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Council, distributed a bill draft [27.0261.01000] relating to the definition of "prepaid wireless service" under Section 57-40.6-01.

In response to a question from a committee member, Mr. Horning noted the proposed change would clarify that unlimited prepaid plans are covered under the definition. He noted prepaid wireless fee revenue for 2026 was estimated to be approximately $480,000, a reduction from a prior estimate of approximately $1 million.

The committee made no recommendation regarding the bill draft.

CYBERSECURITY MATURITY ASSESSMENT PARTICIPATION

Mr. Chris Gergen, Chief Information Security Officer, Information Technology Department, presented information (Appendix O) regarding declining participation in cybersecurity maturity assessments. He noted completed assessments increased from 84 in July to 109 in September, following clarification that assessments must be completed annually to qualify for the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund discount. He reported assessments were completed by all 13 higher education institutions, 41 of 85 boards and commissions, 33 of 165 school districts, 11 of 53 counties, 5 of 355 cities, and 6 other entities.

In response to questions from committee members, Mr. Gergen noted the department planned to tailor assessments to entity size, including reducing the approximately 150-question assessment to a baseline of 56 questions for smaller entities. He provided comments regarding outreach coordination with political subdivisions.

STUDY OF THE ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING SYSTEM

Mr. Joe Morrissette, Director, Office of Management and Budget, Mr. Mock, and Mr. Quirk presented information (Appendix P) regarding enterprise resource planning system modernization.

Procurement and Timeline

Mr. Morrissette provided information regarding the project scope and timeline for the request for proposals process. He noted a notice of limited competitive procurement was issued in August 2026, based on prior work identifying two vendors capable of providing a comprehensive solution. He noted three additional vendors responded to the notice, but none demonstrated the ability to provide all required functionality. He further noted the period to contest the procurement determination had closed.

Mr. Morrissette noted the Office of Management and Budget, Information Technology Department (ITD), and University System planned to develop and release the request for proposals by July 2027, subject to legislative support and funding. He noted the preliminary schedule anticipated awarding the software contract in March 2028 and a separate implementation contract by November 2028. He noted implementation could require an additional 3 to 5 years, although the actual schedule remained uncertain.

Project Scope and Potential Funding

Mr. Morrissette noted the proposed integrated platform would provide human capital management, financial management, employee learning management, and higher education student information functions, as well as improved reporting and analytical functions. He further noted the program would include data migration, staffing support, training, changes to business processes, integration with retained applications, and retirement of PeopleSoft.

Mr. Morrissette noted the total estimated cost was between $195 million and $240 million, with approximately 38 percent attributable to the software vendor and 46 percent to implementation services. He noted a funding request would be included in the Office of Management and Budget's budget request and expenditures would occur over an extended period of time.

Committee Discussion

Committee members discussed whether limiting procurement to comprehensive solutions would prevent meaningful comparison with separate systems for individual functions.

Chairman Bosch and Representative Johnathan Warrey encouraged the procuring agencies obtain additional information regarding the costs, benefits, integration requirements, and potential savings of separate systems for individual functions through a request for quotations or another process before proceeding.

In response to a question from a committee member, Mr. Quirk noted the University System's prior analysis considered separate systems for individual functions, but identified contractual requirements linking student information system modules to human capital management or financial management modules. He described the benefits of shared expertise and coordinated procurement and noted separate systems could require additional integration services and costs.

The committee made no recommendation regarding the enterprise resource planning system study.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECURITY AUDITS

Chairman Bosch and Mr. Joshua C. Gallion, State Auditor, provided background information regarding the IT security audits. Chairman Bosch noted the committee would receive redacted security audit information because the full reports included details regarding vulnerabilities that could assist malicious actors. Mr. Gallion noted the full reports were provided to designated personnel within ITD and the University System for corrective action.

Mr. Casey Bourbonnais, Chief Executive Officer, Secure Yeti, presented information (Appendix Q) regarding information security audits of ITD (Appendix R) and the University System (Appendix S) pursuant to Section 54-35-15.4. He noted:

- Testing involved selected state agencies, the Statewide Interoperable Radio Network, and the University System's institutions and Core Technology Services.
- The two assessments identified 43 vulnerabilities, including 10 critical and 11 high-risk vulnerabilities.
- Critical and high-risk vulnerabilities were communicated promptly to affected agencies for corrective action.

In response to questions from committee members, Mr. Bourbonnais noted security had improved substantially from previous assessments and testing had become more advanced.

Mr. Quirk noted the assessment validated prior security investments and reported the University System had addressed all findings identified in its report and validated the corrective actions.

Mr. Mock noted ITD had resources available to address identified concerns and was implementing corrective actions. Mr. Gergen noted the department's proposed budget request would assist with remediation.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND STAFF DIRECTIVES

It was moved by Senator Enget, seconded by Senator Wobbema, and carried on a voice vote that the Chairman and the Legislative Council staff be requested to prepare a report and to present the report to the Legislative Management.

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

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Grant Gader
Fiscal Analyst

ATTACH:19