

January 9, 2025

Senate State and Local Government Committee
Honorable Kristen Roers, Chair
North Dakota State Capitol, Judicial Wing #216

RE: SB 2049 – Support Testimony presented by Greg Hoffman, Deputy CIO

Good morning, Madam Chair and members of the State and Local Government Committee, my name is Greg Hoffman. I am the Deputy CIO for the state's IT department. I am here today to introduce what can be considered as an agency cleanup bill, proposing a minor change to NDCC 54-59-32 pertaining to the creation of an Executive Steering Committee required for major IT projects. This section of code was created by SB 2034 proposed by Legislative Management to the 63rd Legislative Assembly. It has remained unchanged since enactment.

SB 2049 is a request to increase the members of the Executive Steering Committee providing governance to major IT projects from five to seven. The current structure of the five Committee members is CIO (or designee), Agency Head (or designee), OMB Director (or designee), Project Sponsor and Project Management Oversight.

The responsibility of the Committee is to monitor the overall status of the project and review project decisions, including negotiation and execution of contracts, approval of project budgets, implementation of project schedules, assessment of project quality, and consideration of scope changes.

The challenge with five members occurs when project operational conversations need to happen involving an agency and ITD. A forum occurs with three Committee members in a meeting, triggering the requirement to hold a formal ESC meeting. This formal meeting is not needed, however to avoid the unnecessary ESC meeting, not all desired meeting participants are included. This can trigger additional meetings to update participants intentionally left out.

Increasing the Committee to seven members would resolve this issue. The increase in Committee members allows for additional expertise that can be beneficial in meeting the responsibilities of the Committee.

In light of the conversation we just had around the creation of the statewide IT plan, and understanding that a number of projects from the IT plan would become major IT projects with ESC's, it may be in our best interest to handle these bills at the same time.

Thank you, this completes my testimony on SB 2049.