

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia Washington

BilAnalysis

BilNo. HB 2385

Department of Information Services
Brief title

Hrg Date: 1/20/98

Reps. Radcliff/Wolfe
Sponsor

Staff John Carmichael
Comm. on Govt. Admin.
Phone: 786-7093

BACKGROUND:

The Information Service Board is composed of 13 members. The Governor appoints eight members of the board, including two members representing the private sector. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate each appoint a member. The representatives from the House of Representatives and the Senate shall not be from the same political party. The remaining members are the director of the Department of Information Services, the Superintendent of Public Instruction (or the Superintendent's designee) and a member appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

The board's responsibilities relating to information services include (1) setting standards for the acquisition, maintenance and disposal of equipment, software and purchased services; (2) developing state-wide interagency technical policies; and (3) setting policies for the periodic review of agency performance, including review of planning, management, control and use of information services. The board convenes at scheduled times or at the request of a majority of its members, the chair, or the director of the Department of Information Services.

The Open Public Meetings Act generally requires that state boards conduct official business only at meetings held at times and places published in the state register. Exceptions are made for emergency and special meetings. Special meetings may be held after providing written notice 24 hours in advance to local media and to each member of the board, unless the member has waived the right to be notified or is present when the meeting convenes. The board shall not take final disposition of any matter at a special meeting except matters described in the notice of the meeting.

The Department of Information Services, with the approval of the board, establishes standards for evaluating major information technology projects by state agencies and evaluate projects during development. The department submits copies of project evaluations to the chairs, ranking minority members, and staff coordinators of the appropriations committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The director of the department may terminate a project if the project is not meeting or is not expected to meet performance standards.

SUMMARY:

The composition and responsibilities of the Information Service Board are altered. The responsibilities of the Department of Information Service are also altered.

Composition of the Board

Membership of the board is increased from 13 to 15. The representation of the Legislature is increased from two members to four members, one from each of the two largest caucuses of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The number of the Governor's appointments to the board that represent the private sector is increased from two members to four members.

Responsibilities of the Board

The board shall coordinate efforts by agencies to implement changes to information technology made necessary by the year 2000.

The board shall report at least twice a year on the status of information technology projects and initiatives in state government. The reports shall be sent to the fiscal committees of both houses with responsibility for funding for review. A copy of the report shall be forwarded to each policy committee of both houses that oversee the responsibilities of the agency reviewed in the report.

The board may hold meetings only if notice of the meetings is given to members of the board and public notice of the meetings is given at least five days prior to the meeting. The board may no longer hold special meetings under the Open Public Meetings Act.

Responsibilities of the Department

Copies of the department's project evaluations shall also be submitted to the policy committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate with responsibility for issues relating to the agency that undertakes the project.

Before terminating a major information technology project, the director must provide reasons in writing to a person in the Governor's Office and to the chairs of the committees in the House of Representatives and Senate with oversight over the agency subject to the review. A copy of each notice signed by the person to whom it is addressed must be filed with the official minutes of the Information Services Board. A signature on the notice indicates that the person has received notice of the termination and does not necessarily signify agreement with the decision.

FISCAL NOTE: Not requested.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill passed.