



March 20, 2014

The Honorable Senator Jeremy Ring  
Florida State Senate  
Tallahassee, FL

RE: HB 7073 – IT Governance; recreating a state IT department and state CIO - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Ring:

My organization, the IT Alliance for the Public Sector, wishes to state its support for HB 7073 (and what had been a companion bill, SB 928) that will establish an Agency for State Technology. As you know, two years ago, elected officials in Florida defunded the State of Florida's Agency for Enterprise Information Technology – and it did away with the position of its State Chief Information Officer (CIO). At the time, the agency was viewed as an unnecessary public expenditure. Considering we live in an age where mobility, data analytics, cybersecurity, cloud computing, and social media are all converging to deliver better, more efficient and effective constituent services, Florida's action to effectively eliminate technology leadership from state management was a disturbing decision – and particularly so for a such a large and important state such as Florida. That decision has resulted in information technology (IT) investment decisions being made in decentralized and disconnected silos, which has wasted both time and taxpayer dollars.

We are pleased state officials now realize they cannot afford to be without a centralized department overseeing IT investments for the citizens of Florida. We wish to applaud your leadership on this issue and to also recognize and thank the leadership in both the Florida House and Senate. House Bill 7073 will establish an Agency for State Technology with an empowered State CIO with responsibility for the state's two main data centers and the authority for IT decision-making, along with a new Technology Advisory Council that will provide much needed input and expertise to state officials charged with governing Florida's IT operation. The new agency will have more staff and additional resources than its predecessor agency, including a modest budget to hire outside experts for much needed advice and strategic direction.

We support Florida's legislative plan to establish an Agency for State Technology. Now is the time for Florida's elected officials to support this proposal that will save resources, taxpayer dollars, and deliver more efficient and effective constituent services. If you wish to contact me, I can be reached at 650-544-7563 or [chenton@itic.org](mailto:chenton@itic.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Henton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carol" and last name "Henton" clearly legible.

Carol Henton  
Vice President, State, Local and Education—Public Sector

Cc: The Honorable Will Weatherford – Speaker of the House  
The Honorable Don Gaetz – President of the Senate  
The Honorable Governor Rick Scott

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