



## OHIO LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

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Date: April 3, 2019  
To: Chairman Greenspan and Members of the Finance  
Subcommittee on Transportation  
From: Kurt McDowell, Director  
Subject: LIS FY2020-2021 Budget Request

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Chairman Greenspan and members of the Finance Subcommittee on Transportation, my name is Kurt McDowell, and I am the Director of Legislative Information Systems (LIS).

Legislative Information Systems (LIS) was formed in 1995, and serves the Ohio General Assembly and the legislative agencies. Like our parent agency, the Legislative Service Commission (LSC), LIS is a non-partisan agency established to facilitate the legislative process. We strive to provide the highest quality and professional information technology (IT) services through robust, reliable, and cost-effective systems that meet the needs of the legislative agencies we support.

The LIS director functions as the General Assembly Chief Technical Officer (CTO). The CTO acts to improve cooperation, standards conformity, and security in all General Assembly IT organizations. Oversight of LIS is provided by the Senate Clerk, the House Clerk and the LSC Director.

While the House, Senate, and LSC each have their own information technology organizations, we work closely and cooperatively with them. LIS also provides direct services that generally begin when requirements affect the entire General Assembly or an even larger community.

LIS operates the General Assembly, Senate, and House websites and is responsible for the design and support of key applications like the bill drafting and chamber systems. The SOLAR (State of Ohio Legislative Application Repository) project transforms the legislative process by making it more efficient and modern. This project entails everything from the initial request that LSC draft a bill, through consideration and approval by both the House and Senate, to the preparation of an act for the presentation to the Governor. You are using a portion of the SOLAR system today if you are following the testimony on your iPad.

LIS is responsible for the Electronic Rule Filing (ERF) system, the Register of Ohio (ROO) website and applications, Rule Authoring Software (RAS), and Rule Watch Ohio - a website that allows the public to track administrative rules of interest.

LIS is responsible for the design and daily maintenance of the legislative telephone system.

LIS also maintains computer desktop, server, network, telephone, and website support for other legislative agencies. These include Correctional Institution Inspection Committee (CIIC), Capitol

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Square Review and Advisory Board (CSRAB), Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR), Joint Legislative Ethics Committee (JLEC), Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee (JMOC), Ohio Retirement Study Council (ORSC) and Joint Education Oversight Committee (JEOC).

Thank you for your time today. I am happy to answer any questions that you might have.