



OHIO LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Date: March 8, 2023
To: Chairman Jones and Members of the House Finance
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Development, and Natural
Resources
From: Kurt McDowell, Director
Subject: LIS FY2024-2025 Budget Testimony

Chairman Jones and members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Agriculture, Development, and Natural Resources, my name is Kurt McDowell, and I am the Director of Legislative Information Systems (LIS).

Legislative Information Systems (LIS) serves the Ohio General Assembly and the legislative agencies. LIS is a non-partisan agency that consistently provides information technology, strategic direction and forward-thinking solutions that are vital to the smooth and efficient operation of Ohio's legislative processes serving the citizens of Ohio.

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, House, LSC, and Ohio Channel 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) system 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), Rule Watch Ohio, the Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Codes website, and the Cut Red Tape website.

LIS is responsible for the design and daily maintenance of the legislative telephone system, email system, file servers and other services used by the legislature. LIS works with vendors to deploy a cloud smart strategy. There are certain information technology functions that are more secure

and better implemented in a cloud environment. LIS makes sure the requirements of the Legislature are considered before making technology decisions.

LIS also maintains computer desktop, server, network, telephone, and website support for other legislative agencies. These include Correctional Institution Inspection Committee (CIIC), Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board (CSRAB), Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR), Joint Legislative Ethics Committee (JLEC), Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee (JMOC), Ohio Channel, and Ohio Retirement Study Council (ORSC).

While the responsibilities have increased over the 28 years that LIS has existed, LIS tries to be good stewards of the taxpayer's money. We have routinely kept our expenditures less than what is appropriated, and I believe this will continue into the next fiscal years.

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