

Rep. Hall and Fischer: HB 202 Sponsor Testimony

Chair Claggett, Vice Chair Workman, Ranking Member Mohamed, and members of the House Technology and Innovation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 202.

At a time when government efficiency and accountability are garnering national attention through the work of DOGE, I'm proud of the work we've already done to root out waste, fraud, and abuse - but there is more work to do.

Building on the work we did to pass a bipartisan bill out of the House last session to Innovate the Code, House Bill 202 is the next step to bring transparency to taxpayers and continue to improve our state IT systems and services, ultimately creating a more efficient government for the citizens we serve.

I'd like to highlight the three main components of this legislation:

1. **Joint Legislative Information Technology Oversight Committee:** As this committee well knows, there is no easy way of determining what each state agency is spending on information technology systems and services. The Department of Administrative Services does the best they can to provide legislators with answers to these questions, but they do not always have the best mechanisms available to acquire the most up-to-date information from each agency. This legislation will create the Joint Legislative Information Technology Oversight Committee and require the Office of Budget and Management to report total expenditures on IT systems and services so both the General Assembly and the public can easily understand how their dollars are being spent.
2. **Fair Software Licensing:** To ensure transparency, it is important that our state's technology vendors avoid using obscure licensing terms and complex pricing mechanisms. An example we can all understand is downloading an app on our phones. An app downloads just the same whether you use an iPhone or an Android. This is similar to commercially available software. Commercially available software can be run on the hardware of an agency's choosing – software does not need to be run on the same company's hardware in order for it to work properly. Thus, House Bill 202 allows for a competitive technology landscape by giving the state flexibility to use its software in the way that is most efficient and cost-effective for taxpayers.
3. **Online Marketplaces:** For those that don't know, online marketplaces allow third-party vendors to sell items to consumers. These marketplaces are beneficial in many ways. For starters, they simplify and speed up the government procurement process, as well as provide access to competitive pricing by offering multiple vendor options for the same product, ensuring better value for taxpayer dollars. House Bill 202 simply confirms the

state can use these online marketplaces when they are already available through existing contracting vehicles.

Chairman and members of this committee -- let's continue to make government more efficient by promoting transparent, cost-effective decision making as it relates to information technology.

I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.