

To: House Committee on Appropriations
From: Jeff Maxon, Interim Executive Branch Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO)
Re: Written Neutral Testimony of HB 2277
Date: March 14, 2023

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2277.

As you have heard from other agencies, recruiting and retaining qualified staff within the State of Kansas continues to be a challenge. Statewide, agencies struggle to recruit and retain information technology (IT) talent. IT is the backbone and foundation of how agencies provide their numerous services to Kansas citizens.

The Office of Information Technology Services has implemented new internship strategies to build out its talent pipeline, and we continue to financially support professional development so that employees can retrain or earn certification for specialized IT skills.

We have seen the benefits of our efforts, but financially, we are not competitive in the job market. The passage of HB 2277 will allow agencies to mature recruitment strategies, securing talent needed as IT continues to evolve. A few of the projects currently underway that will require specialized technical skillsets include:

- Implementation of new cybersecurity tools and Information Security Officers through the Kansas Information Security Office (KISO)
- Unemployment Modernization through the Kansas Department of Labor

Highly skilled IT professionals are needed to make these projects and numerous others a success, and they impact all Kansans. As we continue to modernize and provide more and more digital government services to all citizens, we need tools to assist us in recruiting and retaining top IT talent. Providing bonuses can be an effective tool in securing and keeping the skillsets necessary to deliver quality work.

This is important legislation, and the Office of Information Technology Services is happy to provide any additional information the Committee requests.

Thank you,

Jeff Maxon
Interim Executive Branch Chief Information Technology Officer