



Montana Legislative Services Division
Office of the Executive Director

SCEG
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EXHIBIT 1

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April 24, 2012

To: Dick Clark, Executive Branch State CIO
Legislative Council
Computer System Planning Council
Select Committee on Efficiency in Government

From: Susan Byorth Fox *Susan B. Fox*

Re: Mobile Computing Efforts in the Legislative Branch

On February 7, 2012, the Legislative Select Committee on Efficiency in Government requested that the Montana State CIO work with the Information Technology Managers Council, the Computer Systems Planning Council and Montana Interactive to create a policy or plan for future mobile computing needs. Included in the plan, it is suggested that they develop five governmental functions, including one in the Legislative Branch, as demonstrations projects to prove-out the technology and infrastructure support.

I would like to present you and the respective committees with information on the current and future efforts that are either in place or being worked on for the Legislative Branch. The Legislative Council meets next on May 2 and 3, and the Computer Systems Planning Council will be meeting on May 31, so I will share this same information with them and perhaps some of our efforts would be appropriate to work with you on a demonstration project.

Currently in the Legislative Branch, we have the following mobile computing efforts:

1. Legislator IT Allowance. Legislators are able to access up to a \$1,000 reimbursement for information technology. The intent is to reimburse purchases that provide a word processor, an Internet browser, and e-mail which is what we defined as necessary to conduct legislative business. Currently, we reimburse legislators for the following:
 - a. Laptop computer
 - a. Wireless card, and/or ethernet card for a laptop
 - b. Virus, malware, and/or firewall software
 - c. Office suite (i.e. Microsoft, Corel, Lotus, etc)
 - d. Constituent management software
 - e. ISP allowance for home use, up to \$150 for the biennium
 - f. Printer for home use, up to \$150 for the biennium
 - g. Hardware extended warranty
2. We have streamed House and Senate Floor Sessions and up to 4 committee hearings simultaneously. This web streaming was available primarily to PCs and laptops. Tablets and smartphones were limited in the past because of Flash technology not being available on those devices. There are current efforts to bring that technology to all mobile devices.
3. Legislative committee staff are provided with laptops to be able to utilize them in committee either through the network connection or wireless. House and Senate secretaries who support committees are also on laptops which they can use in any committee meeting room and in their offices to produce minutes.
4. We have purchased a small number of tablets (iPads and others) for staff to test in order to be able to support these devices and understand the best uses.

5. Some of the IT and HR staff have been issued smartphones that have enabled them to be on call for IT and HR emergencies and to have timely access to emails.
6. We have had a Paperless Pilot for the last session in which we asked legislators if they wanted to have the correspondence of phone and email messages delivered to them through email instead of the traditional paper notes delivered by the pages. To support the Paperless Pilot, an Advanced Agenda was developed so that legislators would not need to have the traditional paper packet of bills to be heard in House and Senate floor sessions and they could access the bills, amendments, fiscal notes, and status information through the legislative website. The numbers of participants have been small and we intend to increase the information and training for next session to encourage greater participation.

Some efforts that are currently underway for the immediate future include:

1. The Legislative Council is considering enhancing the information technology allowance with a communications allowance. It is anticipated that we could leverage some savings from reallocating other funding and using that funding to provide legislators with a communications allowance for their constituent communications.
2. We have entered into a contract with Granicus which will upgrade our web streaming so that it will be possible for smart phones and tablets to receive the video web stream and be able to view legislative committees and floor sessions. This contract also provides archive and backup services which preserve the electronic records of legislative activities.
3. The Computer System Planning Council had discussed whether or not to make the paperless legislature the default instead of the paper packets and require legislators to opt-in to the paper packets, rather than the reverse. We currently provide both network printers and wireless printers for legislators during session, so that resource would be available for those who would not receive the paper copies of bills, agendas, etc. There is also the need to determine the appropriate number of paper copies that are needed by the House and Senate staff. It may be possible to reduce the number of paper copies that staff receive and provide them with the same training and information on the paperless option.
4. We are currently working on a dedicated House Bill No. 2 page for committee and floor amendments to eliminate the need for paper packets. The LFD and LSD staff are working with IT staff to create this website which we are striving to be available next session for committee and public use.

Future long-term efforts

Currently, the format for bills on the LAWS page is a pdf document in order to be able to view page and line numbers consistently. This format is not well suited to smart phone technology. We hope to integrate an option for smart phones that would enable better viewing of bills. This effort is most realistic if we receive a proposed appropriation to upgrade the system for our LAWS system.

Cc: Dave Bohyer, LSD
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Bill Hallinan (PERS), ITMC Chair

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