BILL ANALYSIS – Impact on the Judicial Information System (JIS)

ESHB 3178 – Creating efficiencies in the use of technology in state government

ESHB 3178 imposes a number of requirements on state agencies to in order to achieve coordination, standardization and cost savings in the provision of information technology (IT). It adds reporting requirements related to state agency IT expenditures, requires the Information Services Board (ISB) to develop an enterprise-based strategy for IT in state government, and requires the Department of Information Services (DIS) and the Office of Financial Management (OFM) to review IT governance best practices and report the findings to the Legislature.

I. Regarding the judicial branch, Section 7 of the bill adds a new section to 2.68 RCW that directs the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), under the direction of the Judicial Information System Committee (JISC), to do the following:

   A. Develop a JIS IT portfolio that is consistent with RCW 43.105.172:

      1. Links among the agency's objectives, business plan, and technology

      2. Analysis of the effect of proposed IT investments on its existing infrastructure and business functions

      3. Analysis of the effect of proposed IT investments on the state's IT infrastructure.

   B. Participate in the enterprise-based statewide IT strategy that ISB is required to develop using IT expenditure information collected from state agencies. (Section 10)

   C. Ensure the JIS IT portfolio is structured to clearly show participation in and use of enterprise-wide IT strategies. (Section 7)

   D. Submit the JIS IT portfolio to the Legislature, OFM, and DIS as part of the biennial budget process. (Section 7)

The Legislative Service Center is subject to the same provisions under RCW 44.68.

II. The bill also requires AOC to collaborate with DIS to conduct an inventory of IT assets owned or leased by state agencies, to be used to inform the development of a state IT asset management process. (Section 12)

III. The bill encourages the legislative and judicial branches to coordinate with and participate in shared services initiatives and pilot programs. (Section 10)

Other provisions of the bill require additional reporting by state executive branch agencies. While the judicial branch is not specifically excluded from those provisions, the bill amends Title 43 RCW, which is specific to the executive branch, and those chapters of the law have been interpreted generally not to apply to the judicial branch.

As the bill originally passed the House, it would have made all JIS funding requests subject to DIS, ISB, and OFM review. AOC worked to get the bill amended to exclude the judicial branch from such oversight. The Governor vetoed four sections of the bill that applied to DIS and OFM (Sections 5, 13, 14, and 15).