

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

## Minutes

**September 10, 2025**

### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

The fifth meeting of the Information Technology Oversight Committee was held on September 10, 2025, at 10:00 AM in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Matt Lockett, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

### **Present were:**

Members: Senator Gex Williams, Co-Chair; Representative Matt Lockett, Co-Chair; Senators Keturah J. Herron, and Michael J. Nemes; and Representatives Chad Aull, and John Hodgson.

Guests: Jim Barnhart, Chief Information Officer, Commonwealth Office of Technology (COT); David Carter, Deputy Chief Information Officer, COT; Kari Welch, Executive Director, Office of Architecture and Governance, COT; David Couch, Associate Commissioner, KY K-12 EdTech Leader and Chief Information Officer, Office of Education Technology (OET); Mike Leadingham, Director, Planning and Project Management, OET; Bob Hackworth, KY K-12 Chief Cybersecurity Officer, OET; Heather Stout, Executive Director, Office of Information Technologies, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC); Jenni Scutchfield, Assistant Secretary of State, General Counsel, Secretary of State (SOS); David Dukes, Senior IT Engineer, SOS; and Jennifer Harp, Executive Director, Office of Application Technology Services, Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS).

LRC Staff: Cynthia Brown, Sarah Watts, and Heather Hamilton.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Representative Hodgson and seconded by Co-Chair Williams to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2025, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

### **Discussion of ITOC Form**

## **Commonwealth Office of Technology**

Jim Barnhart, Chief Information Officer, COT, presented an overview of legacy applications, replacement of legacy mainframes, and legacy funding. Legacy funding includes a capital fund of \$10 million every biennium.

Kari Welch, Executive Director, Office of Architecture and Governance, COT, discussed the Kentucky Aerial Photography and Elevation Data Program, known as KYFromAbove, which is part of the Commonwealth's Enterprise Geographic Information Services (GIS). She discussed that a three year refresh cycle is ideal in keeping this system up to date.

David Carter, Deputy Chief Information Officer, COT, discussed the Citizen Identity and Access Management Program, known as the Kentucky Online Gateway (KOG). KOG allows citizens to use one username and password to log into various state websites.

Responding to Chair Lockett, Ms. Welch discussed funding needs of the KYFromAbove program. It costs \$1.2 million a year to maintain the platform. To get the updated data, it costs several million dollars every year. Data is used by state agencies and private entities, is unlicensed, and is embedded with the Enhanced 911 (E911) system. Mr. Carter discussed the costs of a citizen identity system. The budget request for KOG is \$2.5 million per year. The bulk of this cost is licensing.

Responding to Representative Hodgson, Ms. Welch stated the only state agency not using their GIS program is the Personnel Cabinet. Mr. Carter stated they will only serve citizens that access the KOG system, which is an unknown number at this time.

Responding to Senator Nemes, Ms. Welch explained how the rates are charged for services and data. Mr. Barnhart stated he would provide more information on COT's rated services.

Responding to Co-Chair Williams, Ms. Welch explained the Property Value Administrator's position on using state unlicensed GIS data versus a vendor's licensed data. The request for proposal (RFP) required statewide unlicensed data, so it could be shared with the public.

Responding to Co-Chair Williams, Mr. Carter explained that local government would not be included in the citizen identity program because is not in the same identity infrastructure as the state. Requirements for multi-factor authentication (MFA) will be left to the participating agencies for now.

## **Department of Education**

David Couch, Associate Commissioner, KY K-12 EdTech Leader and Chief Information Officer, OET, discussed KDE's information technology (IT) applications, cybersecurity, and service vendors.

Responding to Chair Lockett, Mr. Couch discussed the impact of Kentucky Wired on Kentucky schools. All schools have been transitioned to Next Generation KY K-12 Internet Service (NGKI) for about 12 months. Districts have been very satisfied with the service. Schools use 25 times more internet than state and local governments combined. Mr. Couch discussed impacts that would occur if the internet goes down.

Responding to Co-Chair Williams, Mr. Couch stated the MFA for K-12 schools would be separate from the statewide MFA.

## **Transportation Cabinet**

Heather Stout, Executive Director, Office of Information Technologies, KYTC, discussed the legacy and cybersecurity projects already funded and in progress. Ms. Stout highlighted the Kentucky's Information Network for Driver Licensing (KINDL) modernization project, which will eliminate the need for driver's licenses on the mainframe, and the AVIS insurance system modernization, which is the Department of Highways' Right of Way system. In-house system upgrade costs are covered within the cabinet's labor budget.

Responding to Chair Lockett, Ms. Stout deferred to Commissioner Matt Cole, Department of Vehicle Regulation, KYTC, in regards to moving drivers licensing centers back to the counties. Reverting requires major system changes and IT modifications.

Responding to Representative Hodgson, Ms. Stout stated all documents are stored in the system. Third party issuers only issue renewals and have limited access to documents.

Responding to Representative Aull, Ms. Stout stated more staffing has been allocated for licensing. The new KINDL system will bring more efficiencies to services.

Responding to Co-Chair Williams, Ms. Stout stated KYTC is not sure how they will utilize COT's statewide MFA system.

## **Secretary of State**

Jenni Scutchfield, Assistant Secretary of State, General Counsel, SOS, gave an overview of the IT form submission. All applications are web-based, developed in-house, and completely funded with SOS fees.

Responding to Representative Hodgson, David Dukes, Senior IT Engineer, SOS, stated he would look into the data exchanges between SOS and the Department of Revenue (DOR). Ms. Scutchfield stated they are working on creating better gateways to other agencies, so information can be shared more efficiently.

Responding to Co-Chair Williams, Ms. Scutchfield discussed One-Stop, and integration with COT's statewide MFA. SOS currently does not have a MFA system.

## **Cabinet for Health and Family Services**

Jennifer Harp, Executive Director, Office of Application Technology Services, CHFS, discussed the cabinet's IT systems, projects, and modernization needs. CHFS uses KOG for identity and access management, and is transitioning to KY ID for a single sign in solution with MFA.

Responding to Chair Lockett, Ms. Harp explained the single log in for the kynect benefits dashboard.

Responding to Co-Chair Williams, Ms. Harp stated the new cloud would be a .gov website per federal requirements.

## **Discussion of the Kentucky Communications Network Authority and Related Legislation**

Co-Chair Williams discussed the Kentucky Communication Network Authority (KCNA) and a proposed bill draft to restructure KCNA.

Representative Hodgson commented on Co-Chair Williams proposed bill draft.

Responding to Representative Aull, Co-Chair Williams discussed issues with the lawsuits that have been filed in relation to KCNA and its vendors.

**Next Meeting**

October 8, 2025, at 10 AM in the Capitol Annex Room 129, chaired by Co-Chair Williams.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the committee, the committee adjourned at 11:31 AM.