

Approved *John S. Morrison* 2/18/99  
Date

## MINUTES OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Morrison at 3:40 p.m. on February 8, 1999, in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except Representatives McKinney, Burroughs, and Holmes, all of whom were excused.

### Committee Staff Present:

Gary Deeter, Committee Secretary

### Conferees:

(By telephone conference) Steve West, Information Systems Manager, Arizona Legislative Computer Service

Dave Larson, Director, Computer Services, Kansas Legislative Administrative Services

Others Attending: See attached list.

By telephone conference, the SCIM interviewed Steve West, Information Systems Manager for the Arizona Legislative Computer Service. He said the Arizona legislature, through a Computer Policy Committee, chose to develop a pilot program, purchased 30 laptops for legislators (18 House members and 12 Senate members) to be used for the 1998 session. The Arizona House and Senate total 90 members. He said that based on research and a trip to Indiana, staff and legislators chose to build their own system using Visual Basic and Microsoft Access rather than rely on a vendor.

Mr. West said the Arizona legislature budgeted \$1.5 million and appropriated \$250,000 for the pilot program, which included both the House and Senate chambers. Answering questions, he said the laptops, Compaq Armadas, cost \$3200 each. He said their bill-drafting system enabled legislators to add electronic notes to bills. Mr. West encouraged the committee to develop a system in-house rather than rely on vendors. He said Arizona legislative policy allowed legislators to take their laptops anywhere.

Dave Larson, Director, Computer Services, Legislative Administrative Services, said that buying a system from a vendor often produced an information system over budget, behind schedule, and with unhappy customers. He said if the Kansas legislature designs its own system with off-the-shelf software, it may take longer, but will meet budget requirements and provide a more effective information system. He said the Kansas legislature has all components in place to build an integrated system. The Capitol is wired, and networks are operative. He said the need is to build an integrated infrastructure from the various distributed systems. He said he now awaits the SCIM's guidance and directives to proceed in building a common platform for a legislative information system.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25. No further meeting was scheduled.

