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Jeff Maxon, Chief Information Technology Officer

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To: House Committee on Legislative Modernization

From: Jeff Maxon, Executive Branch Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO)

Re: Written Proponent Testimony of HB 2270

Date: February 12, 2025

Chairman Penn and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding House Bill 2270.

House Bill 2270 assists with laying the groundwork and furthers the intent of House Substitute for Senate Bill 291. There are several key items that HB 2270 seeks to address.

First, House Substitute for Senate Bill 291 puts a lot of additional responsibility on the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) for each organization. Currently Legislative Post Audit (LPA) performs IT security audits of agencies. Existing statute does not permit LPA to share these audit reports with the CISO. This bill would allow LPA to share IT audit reports with the respective CISO. In order for the CISO to assist agencies in closing findings from the security audits, the CISO must be aware of the audit findings.

Second, HB 2270 introduces the concept of cloud computing. Cloud computing has become a critical information technology capability and resource. However, for all the benefits that cloud computing offers, it does introduce a degree of risk. HB 2270 ensures that that the Office of Information Technology Services (OITS) has a central inventory of all cloud computing resources and an understanding of where all of the executive branch data is. This aligns with SB 291 that requires the executive branch Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO) to have an inventory of physical IT assets. In addition, it ensures that there is a consistent approach to leveraging cloud environments.

Third, HB 2270 helps clarify existing Kansas statutes around telecommunication services. OITS has been statutorily responsible for providing telecommunications services for the state for a number of years. This bill ensures that advances in telecommunications capabilities are captured and included in the existing statute. In addition, it also clarifies the definition of telecommunication equipment to explicitly capture certain types of common telecommunications equipment. By clarifying the statute, OITS can ensure a consistent, reliable, and secure network is in place for all state branches and agencies.

Lastly, HB 2270 expands on some of the duties of the Chief Information Technology Officer. HB 2270 adds three additional responsibilities to the CITO. These three responsibilities are critical to ensuring a consistent approach to information technology that creates efficiencies and reduces risk. These responsibilities include:

- Prepare and lead the implementation of a strategic direction and enterprise direction for information technology for the executive branch;
- Establish standards and policies for the consistent and efficient operation of information technology services throughout executive branch;

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 Analyze information technology spend throughout the executive branch and work to identify opportunities for efficiencies;

The intent this bill is to continue to create efficiencies in information technology, increase visibility of state IT resources, and continue to reduce the risk to the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Office of Information Technology Services.

Thank you,

Jeff Maxon
Executive Branch Chief Information Technology Officer