

Recommendations

Virginia's IT Governance Structure

RECOMMENDATION 1

The General Assembly may wish to consider amending the Code of Virginia and the Appropriation Act to remove requirements that the Secretary of Technology approve specific operational decisions made by the CIO, including (1) approving VITA contracts and amendments for statewide IT services, (2) approving and making other decisions related to agency IT projects and procurements, and (3) approving and developing state IT standards (Chapter 2, page 15).

RECOMMENDATION 2

The General Assembly may wish to consider amending § 2.2-225 and § 2.2-2007 of the Code of Virginia to reassign the CIO's responsibilities for coordinating the development of central administrative enterprise applications to the Secretary of Technology (Chapter 2, page 17).

RECOMMENDATION 3

The General Assembly may wish to consider amending the Appropriation Act to require that the CIO approve contractual agreements between agencies and CGI Technologies and Solutions, Inc. (Chapter 2, page 18).

RECOMMENDATION 4

The General Assembly may wish to consider amending § 2.2-225 of the Code of Virginia to vest the Secretary of Technology with responsibility for communicating state IT issues to the governor and members of the cabinet (Chapter 3, page 24).

RECOMMENDATION 5

The governor's office, Secretary of Technology, and the CIO should develop and implement procedures for regular discussion of critical state IT issues with the governor and the cabinet. Procedures should ensure that the CIO has the opportunity to directly confer with the governor or governor's staff and other cabinet members about these issues (Chapter 3, page 24).

RECOMMENDATION 6

VITA should establish and the Secretary of Technology should approve a classified position of Deputy CIO to assist the CIO in the fulfillment of the CIO's duties, including managing VITA services and assisting in planning for the end of the Northrop Grumman contract (Chapter 3, page 26).

RECOMMENDATION 7

The General Assembly may wish to consider amending the Appropriation Act to direct the formation of a technical working group, led by the Division of Legislative Services and including staff of JLARC, the Joint Commission on Technology and Science, the Office of the Secretary of Technology, VITA, and the Office of the Attorney General, to develop legislation that reorganizes, clarifies, and codifies VITA's existing responsibilities, including those established in enactment clauses and the Appropriation Act. Legislation should be presented to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission by November 2015 so that it may be considered for the 2016 General Assembly session (Chapter 4, page 30).

RECOMMENDATION 8

The General Assembly may wish to consider amending the Code of Virginia to adopt the legislative changes developed by the technical working group for reorganizing, clarifying, and codifying VITA's existing responsibilities (Chapter 4, page 30).

RECOMMENDATION 9

The General Assembly may wish to consider amending § 2.2-603 of the Code of Virginia to assign agency directors responsibility for securing the electronic data held by their agencies and clarify their responsibility to comply with the requirements of the state's IT security and risk management program (Chapter 4, page 35).

RECOMMENDATION 10

The General Assembly may wish to consider amending § 2.2-2009 of the Code of Virginia to assign the CIO responsibility for providing agencies with information and other assistance needed to meet the requirements of the state's IT security and risk management program (Chapter 4, page 35).

RECOMMENDATION 11

VITA should amend IT standards to reflect its responsibility to provide agencies with information and other assistance needed to meet the requirements of the state's IT security and risk management program (Chapter 4, page 35).

RECOMMENDATION 12

The General Assembly may wish to consider amending § 2.2-2012 of the Code of Virginia to stipulate that the state comptroller shall not authorize payment for IT purchases made in violation of state laws or IT procurement requirements and that intentional violations of centralized IT purchasing requirements can result in the responsible purchasing officer being suspended or removed from office (Chapter 4, page 36).

RECOMMENDATION 13

The state Information Technology Advisory Council should develop and VITA should implement a specific proposal for involving agencies in planning for the expiration of the state's contract with Northrop Grumman by April 2015 (Chapter 5, page 43).

RECOMMENDATION 14

The General Assembly may wish to consider amending the Appropriation Act to require that the Information Technology Advisory Council (ITAC) develop a proposal for improving agency involvement in key central IT decisions. In developing the proposal, ITAC should consider the appropriate level of agency involvement in decisions affecting all areas of governance. The proposal may include changes to the statutory governance structure, if ITAC determines such changes are needed. The written proposal should be provided to the JLARC chairman by November 2015 (Chapter 5, page 43).
