September 24, 2014

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Information Technology
Fiscal Research Division

Dear Members of the General Assembly and Staff:

This letter serves as the report by the Grants Management Oversight Committee regarding the development of an enterprise grants management system as specified in Section 7.14 of Session Law 2013-360.

The Steering Committee met on April 21, 2014, and discussed the strategic direction and priorities related to the implementation of an Enterprise Grants Management System. The committee agreed unanimously that attempting to implement a grants system without having the fundamental financial capabilities to support it would not be feasible, and would only provide a portion of the needed capabilities. The result would be a less than optimal because financial reporting is an essential component of an enterprise grants management system.

Once a decision is made regarding the state's approach to replacing our current financial systems, the appropriate solution for grants management can be determined. A number of software products on the market could meet the state's requirements. The Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution for financials may also provide a path forward for grants management.

Therefore, the committee recommends that priority, focus and funding be given to implementing an ERP solution to modernize the financial management capabilities. Enterprise grants management should be addressed once the ERP plan is determined and underway.

While the direction of a Vehicle Management System is not the responsibility of the committee, the committee also recommends deferral of this system pending decisions on the financial components of the statewide ERP system.

Thank you for your support of information technology in state government.

Sincerely,

Chris Estes, Chair
Grants Management Steering Committee