

# History of Information Technology Governance in North Carolina

## Introduction

Responsibility for information technology in state government has bounced among four agencies over the past 40 years – the Department of Administration, the State Controller, the Department of Commerce and the Governor’s Office. Different groups, from the Council of State to the IT Advisory Board, provided strategic direction. Through it all, several themes have remained consistent – consolidation, shared services, strategic planning, and greater efficiency and effectiveness.

## Current governance

- Most of the laws dealing with the State CIO and Office of Information Technology Services are in Article 3D of G.S. Chapter 147.
- By statute, State CIO has dual roles
  - Statewide responsibilities
    - Strategic planning
    - Project approval and oversight
    - IT Procurement
    - Statewide IT Policies
  - Head of ITS
    - Service delivery organization
- Courts, university system and General Assembly exempt from Article 3D, but may use ITS services
- Lottery Commission also exempt

## Key Dates

### ☀ 1969

- Executive order issued by Gov. Bob Scott establishes the Governor’s Committee on Data Processing and Information Systems. Committee to advise, counsel and guide the Department of Administration in carrying out its duties and responsibilities as the designated agency for the control and effective use of computers, related equipment and facilities, and personnel. (Executive Order No. 2, March 25, 1969)
- Legislation establishes the Police Information Network (PIN) in the Department of Justice and gives the Department of Administration the authority “to establish a coordinated system for transmission of information by communications” between agencies. Department of Administration also authorized “to provide equipment, personnel and systems designed and operated in such manner as to achieve economical and effective transmission and receipt of information necessary to the

duties and responsibilities imposed upon the various agencies of the State.” (S.L. 1969, c. 1267, s. 4)

### ☀ 1971

- The General Assembly gives the Department of Administration broad authority to establish and operate data processing centers on a cost-sharing basis if the Council of State “deems it advisable from the standpoint of efficiency and economy.” Specifically, the department may:
  - Charge participating agencies a proportionate share of the cost of maintenance and operation of the center.
  - Require any state agency being served to transfer “ownership, custody and/or control of automated data processing equipment, supplies, and positions no longer required.”
  - Adopt reasonable rules and regulations for the operation of automated data processing centers.
  - Adopt policies, procedures, criteria, standards, plans, and rules and regulations for cooperative use of existing equipment and personnel on a cost-reimbursable basis “to facilitate more efficient and economic use of automated data processing resources whether located in the Department of Administration, in other State Agencies, or in State-supported institutions.”

Legislation also makes clear that agencies remain responsible for programs to satisfy agency objectives. (S.L. 1971, c. 1097, s. 3)

### 1976

- “A Study of the Feasibility of Establishing State-Operated Computer Centers to Serve County and City Governments” conducted by the Office of State Management of Systems in the Department of Administration. May 12, 1976

### 1977

- Gov. Jim Hunt issues executive order reinstating the Governor’s Committee on Data Processing and Information Systems. Purpose is to derive expert guidance and counsel in the management of the state’s automated data processing resources. (Executive Order No. 8, May 12, 1977)

### ☀ 1983

- The Legislative Research Commission recommends the creation of a Computer Commission to approve proposals by the Department of Administration to consolidate or coordinate the state’s information processing resources. Previously, Council of State was the approving authority. (Study authorized by Resolution 61 of the 1981 session laws.)
- General Assembly creates a 13-member Computer Commission in the Department of Administration.

- The legislation restates many of the provisions of the 1971 law giving broad powers to the Department of Administration. Department authorized “to establish and operate information processing centers and services to serve two or more departments on a cost-sharing basis if the Computer Commission decides it is advisable from the standpoint of efficiency and economy....”
- Department, with approval from the commission, can “require any department served to transfer to the Department of Administration ownership, custody, or control of information processing equipment, supplies, and positions required by the shared centers and services.”
- Commission’s duties include the development of comprehensive five-year plans, updated annually, for the acquisition and use of information technology in the affected departments.
- Department of Justice and the university system exempt from statute. ([S.L. 1983, c. 267](#))

#### ☀ 1987

- Gov. Jim Martin issues executive order transferring State Information Processing Services (SIPS) from the Department of Administration to the State Controller. (Executive Order No. 8, May 12, 1987)
- Legislation transfers Computer Commission and functions and powers relating to the provision of shared services from the Department of Administration to the State Controller. Provision sunsets Aug. 1, 1988. ([S.L. 1987, c. 876, s.23.1](#))

#### 1988

- Sunset on 1987 legislation changes to Aug. 1, 1989. ([S.L. 1987, c. 1086, s. 33](#))
- Budget provision allows the Department of Revenue to deviate from statutes dealing with shared services. Provision also appropriates money for Revenue to develop an office automation system and an agency distributed computer capability, in cooperation with SIPS, and for design, implementation, evaluation and documentation of a distributed data processing model for state government. ([S.L. 1987, c. 1086, s. 34](#))

#### ☀ 1989

- Sunset on legislation moving information technology to the State Controller is repealed.
- “General coordinating authority” for all telecommunications matters moved from the Department of Administration to the State Controller. Legislation also includes specific responsibilities, such as coordination of cost-sharing systems.

Police Information Network in the Department of Justice and the Judicial Information System in the Department of Justice are exempt.

- Authority to provide shared IT services is called “State Information Processing Services.”
- Computer Commission becomes 17-member Information Technology Commission. Members include the old Computer Commission and the chair of the Governor’s Committee on Data Processing and Information Systems, the chair of the State Information Processing Services Advisory Board and two public members appointed by the General Assembly.
- Requirement for a five-year IT plan changed to a plan “covering the current and following biennium.” ([S.L. 1989, c. 239](#))

#### ☀ 1991

- The Government Performance Audit Committee (GPAC) recommends the creation of an Information Resource Management Commission (IRMC) to provide “strong coordinated management to take advantage of the benefits and cost effectiveness that information technology offers.”
- GPAC also proposes an IRM Advisory Board and a planning process to link technical plans to programs.
- The study says the state should immediately begin planning to consolidate its telecommunications networks. ([GPAC](#))

#### ☀ 1992

- Acting on the GPAC recommendations, the General Assembly creates a 12-member Information Resources Management Commission.
  - The commission’s duties include development and approval biennially of a statewide information technology strategy.
  - The commission also has the authority “to establish and enforce a quality review and expenditure review procedure for major information technology projects.”
  - The commission is composed of four members of the Council of State, appointed by the Governor; the Secretary of Administration; the State Budget Officer; two members of the Governor’s cabinet, appointed by the Governor; two citizens appointed by the General Assembly; the chair of the Governor’s Committee on Data Processing and Information Systems

and the chair of the State Information Processing Services Advisory Board. ([S.L. 1991, c. 900, s. 14](#))

- Effective dates of legislation creating IRMC changed; General Assembly authorized to make appointments to the IRMC at any time after ratification of the act. ([S.L. 1991, c. 1030, s. 51.14](#))

## 1996

- Criminal Justice Information Network (CJIN) Governing Board created. Chair of the IRMC appoints one member of the commission to the board. ([S.L. 1996, c. 18-es2, s. 23.3\(a\)](#))
- Chair of the CJIN board added to the IRMC. ([S.L. 1996, c. 18-es2, s. 23.3\(b\)](#))

## ☀ 1997

- Executive order by Gov. Jim Hunt transfers IRMC and information technology-related functions of state government to the Department of Commerce. (Executive Order No. 111, April 14, 1997)
- Technology-related functions of state government (IRMC, State Information Processing Services, State Telecommunications Services) move from the Office of State Controller to the Department of Commerce. Cities, counties and other units of local government given access to SIPS services on the same cost basis as state agencies. ([S.L. 1997-148](#))
- Biennial review and comment on technology plans of Administrative Office of the Courts added to IRMC's functions; Secretary of State and State Controller added to IRMC with a sunset of June 30, 2001. ([S.L. 1997-443, ss. 18.17\(a\), 24\(a\)](#))

## 1998

- Administrative Office of the Courts added to agencies for which the IRMC recommends relative priorities across information technology plans to the Governor and Office of State Budget and Management; Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts or the director's designee added to IRMC. ([S.L. 1998-212, s. 16\(a\)](#))

## ☀ 1999

- State Information Processing Services becomes Division of Information Technology Services; certification by the IRMC required for state agency information technology projects costing more than \$500,000. Commission given power to suspend project certification. Joint Legislative Commission on

Governmental Operations given authority to request cutoff of funds to decertified projects. ([S.L. 1999-347](#))

### ☀ **1999 Revision**

- E-commerce legislation (SB 222) includes major revision of IT statutes.
- Purpose is “to strengthen the management of information technology in State government by enhancing the accountability for expenditures, providing for more cost-effective investments, improving operational efficiencies, and clarifying responsibilities for maximizing benefits from related assets.”
- Name of Division of Information Technology Services changed to Office of Information Technology Services (ITS). Position of State Chief Information Officer created. State CIO appointed by Secretary of Commerce and reports to Secretary.
- IRMC given independent staff
- Powers and duties of ITS include development of government-wide, enterprise-level policies for information technology for approval by IRMC.
- ITS given responsibility for information technology procurement for state agencies.
- General Assembly, university system and university campuses exempt.
- Information Technology Management Advisory Council, composed of representatives from other state agencies, created to advise ITS on information technology business management and technology matters.
- President of the university system or the president’s designee added to the IRMC; State CIO added as a non-voting member; chair of State Information Processing Services Advisory Board replaced by chair of the Information Technology Management Advisory Council; independent staff authorized for IRMC. ([S.L. 1999-434, s.s. 9-31](#))

### ☀ **2000**

- Office of Information Technology Services and Information Resource Management Commission transferred to the Office of the Governor.
  - State Chief Information Officer appointed by the Governor after consultation with the House and Senate committees on information technology (or similar committees designated by the rules of each house).

- Legislation exempts Judicial Department, in addition to General Assembly and universities. ([S.L. 2000-174](#))

## **2001**

- House and Senate each receive one additional appointment to the IRMC. ([S.L. 2001-166](#))

## **☀ 2004**

- Legislation commonly referred to as SB 991 eliminates the IRMC and shifts more authority and responsibility for IT oversight and planning to the State CIO.
  - State CIO given authority to approve and monitor major IT projects and directed to prepare biennial State Information Technology Plan.
  - IT Fund created to meet statewide requirements, including planning, project management, security, electronic mail, portal operations and the administration of system-wide procurement procedures.
  - Twelve-member IT Advisory Board created to review and comment on State IT Plan and statewide initiatives developed by the State CIO.
  - Information Technology Management Advisory Council abolished.
  - Requirement that Governor consult with House and Senate IT committees on CIO appointment dropped. ([S.L. 2004, c. 129](#))

## **☀ 2007**

- IT Advisory Board reduced from 12 members to nine. State Controller ex officio member. ([S.L. 2007-189, s. 4](#))

## **☀ 2011**

- IT Advisory Board eliminated. ([S.L. 2011-266, s. 1.9](#))

## Appendix

### Membership of the IT policy-making and advisory boards

#### 1983 Computer Commission (13 members)

Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the Department of Administration, State Budget Officer, State Auditor, State Treasurer, Secretary of State, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Labor, Commissioner of Insurance, President of the Department of Community Colleges and the Legislative Services Officer, or his designee. ([S.L. 1983-267, s. 2](#))

#### 1989 Information Technology Commission (17 members)

Members of the old Computer Commission plus the chair of the Governor's Committee on Data Processing and Information Systems, the chair of the State Information Processing Services Advisory Board and two public members appointed by the General Assembly. ([S.L. 1989-239, s. 6](#))

#### 1992 Information Resource Management Commission (12 members)

Four members of the Council of State, appointed by the Governor; the Secretary of Administration; the State Budget Officer; two members of the Governor's cabinet, appointed by the Governor; two citizens appointed by the General Assembly, the chair of the Governor's Committee on Data Processing and Information Systems and the chair of the State Information Processing Services Advisory Board. ([S.L. 1991, c. 900, s.14](#))

#### 1996 Information Resource Management Commission (13 members)

Chair of the Criminal Justice Information Network added. ([S.L. 1996, c. 18-es2, s. 23.3](#))

#### 1997 Information Resource Management Commission (15 members)

Secretary of State and State Controller added with an expiration of June 30, 2001. Expiration later repealed. ([S.L. 1997, c. 443, s. 24](#))

#### 1998 Information Resource Management Commission (16 members)

Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts or the director's designee added. ([S.L. 1998, c. 212, s. 16](#))



**1999 Information Resource Management Commission (18 members)**

President of the university system or the president's designee added to the IRMC; State CIO added as a non-voting member; chair of State Information Processing Services Advisory Board replaced by chair of the Information Technology Management Advisory Council. ([S.L. 1999, c. 434, s. 18](#))

**2000 Information Resource Management Commission (20 members)**

President of the Community College System office or the president's designee added; representatives of the League of Municipalities and Association of County Commissioners added as non-voting members; chair of the Governor's Committee on Data Processing and Information Systems removed; chair of State Information Processing Services Advisory Board replaced by chair of the Information Technology Management Advisory Council; sunset removed on membership of Secretary of State and State Controller. ([S.L. 2000, c. 174, s. 2](#))

**2001 Information Resource Management Commission (22 members)**

House and Senate each receive one additional appointment. ([S.L. 2001, c. 166, s. 1](#))

**2004 Information Technology Advisory Board (12 members)**

Four members each appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the House and Senate President Pro Tem. Chair appointed by the Governor. ([S.L. 2004, c. 129, s. 2](#))

**2007 Information Technology Advisory Board (9 members)**

Board reduced to nine members, with two each appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the House and Senate President Pro Tem, and chair. Chair's appointments must be state agency chief information officers or managers whose responsibilities include information technology. Chair continues to be appointed by the Governor. ([S.L. 2007, c. 189, s. 4](#))

**2011 IT Advisory Board eliminated**

([S.L. 2011-266, s. 1.9](#))