

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Public Hearing on H.B. No. 5539

(RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING JUDICIAL BRANCH POWERS AND PROCEDURES AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM.

March 26, 2010

Submitted by Sean Thakkar, Executive Director, CJIS Governing Board

Good morning Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor, Senator Kissel, Representative O'Neil and members of the Judiciary Committee. I am addressing you regarding H.B. No. 5539.

I would like to thank the CJIS Governing Board for the unprecedented level of support, collaboration and cooperation along with the Co-Chairs Lt. Governor Fedele and Judge Carroll for their leadership and vision for the CJIS Community.

I would also like to thank Secretary Robert Genuario and Under Secretary Brian Austin (OPM) for providing me their support and guidance for the last 18 months.

It is important to note at the outset that I have not had an opportunity to present or discuss HB 5539 with the CJIS Governing Board. Although I brought up recommendations similar to those contained in the legislation before you at an earlier meeting of the CJIS Governing Board and some objections were raised, the Governing Board has not seen or discussed this pending legislation and has not taken a position on it. So my testimony today represents only my personal viewpoint as the CJIS Executive Director and not any formal position of the CJIS Governing Board.

Specifically, I am advised that CIO, Diane Wallace, strongly opposes Section 43 of the bill because she notes that the payphone revenue dollars presently pay for the salaries of 11 DOIT union positions that support OPM, DPS, DOC, DMV, DCJ, and the CJIS infrastructure -- CIO Wallace asks that if this funding is removed from DoIT, how will these people be paid?

My position though is that by passing this legislation the CJIS Community will derive the following benefits:

1. The CJIS Governing Board will be able to use the \$1.3 MM to optimize the needs of the projects and initiatives under its control.
2. The CJIS Governing Board will be able to request the critical resources it needs with the proper skills, experience and expertise. Proper staffing is imperative to ensuring that CJIS projects and initiatives have a good chance for success. Additionally, by having a staff that is accountable to me, it will allow me to have a greater level of accountability to the CJIS Governing Board and ultimately to the General Assembly and the Governor.

3. The CJIS Governing Board will be able to work with DoIT to establish a Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the services requested. This will provide for accountability and performance measurement for the services received.
4. The CJIS Governing Board will have the ability to set standards that are specific to the CJIS community's needs. This will provide uniformity and consistency that is very much needed to have successful projects.

I would like to sincerely thank the committee for considering my recommendations and allowing me this opportunity to present my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions.