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TESTIMONY
OF
RUSS K. SAITO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS
ON
March 17, 2009

S.B. 830, S.D. 2

RELATING TO GOVERNMENT SHARED SERVICES TECHNOLOGY

Chair McKelvey and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 830, S.D. 2.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) has amendments to recommend. On page 3, lines 5-6, the provision that “The use of the fund shall be authorized by the legislature prior to the expenditure”, should be deleted.

At the time budgets are submitted to the Legislature, exact and complete details on hardware, software, network, and peripheral systems required are not known. Expenditure levels can be reasonably estimated but not the acquisition-ready details. Requiring that such acquisitions be authorized by the Legislature will be ineffective. Acquisitions to accomplish the current departmental IT need will need to be delayed until the next Legislature Session in order to be authorized by the Legislature prior to expenditure.

There is sufficient protection that the expenditures will be appropriate by the provision on page 2, line 18 to page 3 line 4, “the purposes for which any funds deposited into the shared services technology special fund may be used shall within the appropriate duties and responsibilities of the department of accounting and general services for information and technology services;” as well as, requiring, on page 3 lines 7-18, a complete accounting of the fund and its expenditures.

On page 3 lines 13-14, the term “generating revenue” should be replaced with “receiving monies”. The fund does not generate revenue, it simply receives monies from participating departments.

There would also need to be the proper appropriation ceiling language added so that monies from the fund can be expended. A ceiling of \$12.5 million would be acceptable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.