

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SESSION:
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-4949



INTERIM
1500 W Benson Blvd
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 269-0244

SENATOR JAMES KAUFMAN

Sponsor Statement for SB 38 - Bill Version A

"An Act establishing the office of information technology; relating to information technology projects undertaken by state agencies; and providing for an effective date."

The State of Alaska's digital infrastructure needs improvement. Many departments are dealing with backlogs, extended processing time, and other issues caused by outdated IT systems, frustrating many Alaskans. These are the symptoms of inadequate IT systems. Optimized management of IT is needed for better cost, control, standardization, and improved outcomes. Accessible IT systems managed by a qualified team are especially important in a technology landscape that changes frequently.

SB 38 establishes the Office of Information Technology within the Department of Administration. The bill establishes clear roles, guidelines, and standards for management practices of IT projects across state agencies. SB 38 represents a significant step in modernizing Alaska's IT governance, ensuring better transparency and elevating the quality of services provided to the people of Alaska.

SB 38 recognizes the fundamental role a centralized office of Information Technology (IT) has in innovative solutions that can move Alaska into a new era of management and operations. Designing and managing the scope of an IT project can be daunting, and teams sometimes fail to efficiently deliver a fully optimized result. The centralization of an IT office allows that office to offer solutions to this problem, arming executive branch agencies with information, expertise, and resources to smoothly facilitate the documentation and management process of IT projects.

SB 38 empowers a State Chief Information Officer (CIO) to oversee IT projects. The CIO will ensure that departments adhere to IT system best practices, while ensuring that each department gets a system that meets their unique needs. SB 38 requires state agencies to document IT projects requirements in biennial information technology plans, promoting better transparency and accountability. The CIO will also ensure that they remain compliant within their budget, and that results are aligned with legislative intent.

SB 38 creates a framework for the State to address a lack of support for updating, or even maintaining IT systems through the streamlining of management processes. This management acts as a form of risk mitigation, as SB 38 will not only allow the legislature to make more informed decisions on budget requests, but it will also improve visibility into project progress, thereby fostering a more efficient, forward thinking, and outcome-oriented approach to IT project management.