

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MR. SPEAKER AND MR. PRESIDENT:

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:

H. B. No. 1491: Cloud Center of Excellence; establish for phased-in cloud computing and storage by state agencies and governing authorities.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

1. That the Senate recede from its Amendment No. 1.
2. That the House and Senate adopt the following amendment:

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

15 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the
16 "Cloud Center of Excellence Act."

17 **SECTION 2.** As used in this act, the following terms shall
18 have the meanings ascribed herein, unless the context clearly
19 requires otherwise:

20 (a) "Cloud Center of Excellence" or "CCOE" means the
21 centralized body responsible for providing strategic guidance,
22 best practices, governance, and technical support for cloud
23 adoption and management across state agencies and governing
24 authorities.

25 (b) "Cloud computing" means on-demand access to
26 computing resources, including storage, servers, and applications,
27 delivered via the Internet or other networks.



(c) "ITS" or "department" means the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services.

(d) "Governing authority" means the same as the term governing authority is defined in Section 25-53-3(2)(f).

(e) "State agency" means the same as the term "agency" is defined in Section 25-53-3(2)(e).

SECTION 3. (1) There is established within the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS) a centralized Cloud Center of Excellence (CCOE) to facilitate cloud adoption across state agencies and governing authorities, enhance technological infrastructure, improve security and scalability, and streamline cloud migrations in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

(2) Using existing resources, ITS may review the process for the coordinated development, hosting and management of computer software for state agencies that use cloud computing services. The Cloud Center of Excellence (CCOE) shall:

(a) Develop and implement a statewide strategy for cloud adoption and management;

(b) Provide guidance, best practices, and governance frameworks to state agencies and governing authorities for the adoption and use of cloud services;

(c) Establish standardized processes for cloud migrations, resource optimization, and workload assessments;



(d) Enhance cybersecurity protocols and ensure compliance with state and federal security standards;

(e) Monitor and report on the scalability, cost efficiency, and performance of cloud infrastructure;

(f) Offer training and support to agency personnel to promote cloud literacy and effective utilization; and

(g) Coordinate with state agencies and governing authorities to ensure a phased implementation schedule as required by the provision of Section 4 of this act.

SECTION 4. (1) The Cloud Center of Excellence (CCOE) shall establish a two-year phased implementation plan, which shall accomplish the following benchmarks by July 1, 2027:

(a) Conduct statewide readiness assessments and develop detailed cloud migration plans for pilot agencies;

(b) Initiate pilot migrations for selected state agencies, establish key performance indicators (KPIs) and refine processes based on feedback;

(c) Expand cloud adoption to additional state agencies, focusing on optimizing resource utilization and ensuring adherence to best practices;

(d) Integrate governing authorities into the cloud ecosystem and provide support for local governments, postsecondary educational institutions and school districts; and



75 (e) Achieve full statewide adoption of cloud services,
76 with ongoing monitoring, training, and optimization provided by
77 the CCOE for all state agencies and governing authorities.

78 (2) During the implementation described in subsection (1),
79 each state agency and governing authority integrated into the CCOE
80 at that time shall consider:

81 (a) Cloud computing service options, including any
82 security benefits and cost savings associated with purchasing
83 those service options from a cloud computing service provider and
84 from a statewide technology center established by the department,
85 when making purchases; and

86 (b) Cloud computing service options and compatibility
87 with cloud computing services in the development of new
88 information technology software applications.

89 (3) (a) Except as provided by paragraph (b) of this
90 subsection, a state agency or governing authority shall ensure,
91 when making purchases for an automated information system, that
92 the system is capable of being deployed and run on cloud computing
93 services.

94 (b) When making a purchase for an automated information
95 system, a state agency or governing authority may determine that,
96 due to integration limitations with legacy systems, security risks
97 or costs, the state agency or governing authority is unable to
98 purchase a system capable of being deployed and run on cloud
99 computing services.



(c) At least fourteen (14) days before the date a state agency or governing authority solicits bids, proposals, offers or other applicable expressions of interest for a purchase described by paragraph (b) of this subsection, the state agency or governing authority shall submit a report that describes the purchase and the agency's reasoning for making the purchase of an automated information system to the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS).

(4) The department shall provide administrative support and oversight to the CCOE and ensure compliance with this act.

(5) The department is authorized to:

(a) Enter into agreements with cloud service providers to facilitate cost-effective procurement of cloud solutions;

(b) Develop and enforce statewide cloud security and compliance standards;

(c) Establish funding mechanisms, including interagency agreements, to support the operations of the CCOE; and

(d) Promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

SECTION 5. (1) Not later than November 15 of each even-numbered year, ITS, using existing resources, shall submit a report to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker, the Chairpersons of the House and Senate Committees on Technology and of the House State Affairs Committee on the use of cloud computing service options by state agencies and governing authorities,



125 detailing the progress of the implementation plan, challenges
126 encountered, and recommendations for improvement. The report must
127 include use cases that provided cost savings and other benefits,
128 including security enhancements. All state agencies and governing
129 authorities shall cooperate with ITS in the creation of the report
130 by providing timely and accurate information and any assistance
131 required by the department.

132 **SECTION 6.** The Legislature shall appropriate funds to the
133 Department of Information Technology Services to implement and
134 operate the Cloud Center of Excellence (CCOE). The CCOE may seek
135 additional funding through federal grants, partnerships, and other
136 available resources.

137 **SECTION 7.** Section 25-53-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
138 amended as follows:

139 25-53-3. (1) Whenever the term "Central Data Processing
140 Authority" or the term "authority," when referring to the Central
141 Data Processing Authority, is used in any law, rule, regulation,
142 document or elsewhere, it shall be construed to mean the
143 Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services.

144 (2) For the purposes of this chapter the following terms
145 shall have the meanings ascribed in this section unless the
146 context otherwise requires:

147 (a) "Central Data Processing Authority" and "CDPA" mean
148 "Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services * * *
149 (ITS)" and the term "authority" means "board of the * * * ITS."



(b) "Bureau of Systems Policy and Planning," "Bureau of Telecommunications," "Bureau of Central Data Processing" and "bureau" mean " * * * ITS."

* * *

(* * * c) "Acquisition" of * * * information technology means the purchase, lease, rental, or acquisition in any other manner of any such * * * information technology.

(* * * d) "Agency" means and includes all the various state agencies, officers, departments, boards, commissions, offices and institutions of the state.

(* * * e) "Governing authority" means boards of supervisors, governing boards of all school districts, all boards of directors of public water supply districts, boards of directors of master public water supply districts, municipal public utility commissions, governing authorities of all municipalities, port authorities, commissioners and boards of trustees of any public hospitals and any * * * governing authority of the state supported wholly or in part by public funds of the state or * * * governing authority thereof.

(* * * f) "Bid" means any of the valid source selection techniques and competitive procurement methods appropriate to information technology procurement in the public sector, including, but not limited to, competitive sealed bidding, competitive sealed proposals, simplified small purchase procedures, sole source procurements, and emergency procurements.



175 (* * *g) "Telecommunications transmission facility"
176 means any transmission medium, switch, instrument, inside wiring
177 system or other facility which is used, in whole or part, to
178 provide any transmission.

179 (* * *h) "Equipment support contract" means a contract
180 which covers a single, specific class or classes of
181 telecommunications equipment or service and all features
182 associated with that class, through which state agencies may
183 purchase or lease the item of equipment or service specified by
184 issuing a purchase order under the terms of the contract without
185 the necessity of further competitive bidding.

186 (* * *i) "Inside wiring system" means any wiring
187 which:

188 (i) Directly or indirectly, interconnects any
189 terminal equipment with any other terminal equipment or with any
190 regulated facility or common carrier services; and

191 (ii) Is located at the premises of the customer
192 and is not inside any terminal equipment.

193 (* * *j) "Procurement" means the selling, buying,
194 purchasing, renting, leasing or otherwise obtaining * * *
195 information technology as well as activities engaged in, resulting
196 in or expected to result in selling, buying, purchasing, renting,
197 leasing or otherwise obtaining * * * information technology.



198 (* * *k) "Telecommunications equipment, systems,
199 related services" are limited to the equipment and means to
200 provide:
201 (i) Telecommunications transmission facilities.
202 (ii) Telephone systems, including voice processing
203 systems.
204 (iii) Facsimile systems.
205 (iv) Radio paging services.
206 (v) Mobile telephone services, including cellular
207 mobile telephone service.
208 (vi) Intercom and paging systems.
209 (vii) Video teleconferencing systems.
210 (viii) Personal communications networks and
211 services.
212 (ix) Any and all systems based on emerging and
213 future telecommunications technologies relative to (i) through
214 (viii) above.

215 (* * *l) "Telecommunications system lease contract"
216 means a contract between a supplier of telecommunications systems,
217 including equipment and related services, and the Mississippi
218 Department of Information Technology Services * * *.

219 (* * *m) "Tariffed or regulated service" means
220 telecommunications service offered by common carriers and subject
221 to control by the Mississippi Public Service Commission or the
222 Federal Communications Commission.



223 (* * *n) "State Data Center" means one or more
224 facilities operated by * * * ITS to provide information technology
225 resources requiring enterprise computing resources or any
226 other * * * ITS managed information resources.

227 (o) "Information technology" means any technology as
228 defined by ITS, including, but not limited to, computer and/or
229 telecommunications equipment, systems or related services.

230 **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
231 and after July 1, 2025.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A CLOUD CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (CCOE)
2 WITHIN THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
3 SERVICES; TO FACILITATE THE ADOPTION AND MANAGEMENT OF CLOUD
4 COMPUTING ACROSS STATE AGENCIES AND GOVERNING AUTHORITIES; TO
5 PROVIDE STRATEGIC GUIDANCE, BEST PRACTICES, AND GOVERNANCE
6 FRAMEWORKS FOR CLOUD MIGRATION AND OPTIMIZATION; TO ENHANCE
7 SECURITY, SCALABILITY, AND COST EFFICIENCY IN STATEWIDE CLOUD
8 OPERATIONS; TO AUTHORIZE THE PHASED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CCOE
9 OVER A TWO-YEAR PERIOD; TO PROVIDE REPORTING AND OVERSIGHT
10 REQUIREMENTS; TO AUTHORIZE THE PROMULGATION OF RULES AND
11 REGULATIONS NECESSARY FOR ITS ADMINISTRATION; TO AMEND SECTION
12 25-53-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM DEFINITIONS; AND FOR
13 RELATED PURPOSES.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)
Zuber

X (SIGNED)
Massengill

X (SIGNED)
Ford (73rd)

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)
DeLano

X (SIGNED)
Williams

X (SIGNED)
Johnson

