



OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET


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MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chairman, House Finance Committee
The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

From: Joseph Codega Jr., Budget Officer 

Date: March 21, 2025

Subject: Amendments to FY 2026 Appropriations Act (25-H-5076)

Governor's Budget Amendment #10

The Governor requests that several amendments be made to the FY 2026 Appropriations Act. The amendments include changes in Article 1, Relating to Making Appropriations in Support of FY 2026, and Article 3, Relating to Government Reform and Reorganization.

This amendment adds 15.0 FTE positions within the Division of Enterprise Technology Strategy and Services (ETSS), funded through the Information Technology Internal Service Fund, to replace contractors and fill critical IT and security roles. Following a comprehensive review of information technology management and governance, ETSS determined that certain key roles would be more effectively fulfilled by full-time ETSS employees rather than contractors. These FTEs will support the maintenance, operations, and security of state information technology systems, ensuring sustainable state oversight and reducing risks associated with relying on contractors or vendors.

Additionally, this amendment authorizes the state personnel administrator to adjust pay plans for employees in specialized information technology roles. These roles are specifically limited to personnel within the ETSS under the Department of Administration. This change enhances the personnel administrator's ability to effectively recruit and hire qualified information technology specialists.

If you have any questions regarding these amendments, please feel free to call me or my staff at 222-6300.

cc: Sharon Reynolds Ferland, House Fiscal Advisor
Stephen Whitney, Senate Fiscal Advisor
Jonathan Womer, Director of Administration
Brian Daniels, Director, Office of Management and Budget

ARTICLE 1, RELATING TO MAKING APPROPRIATIONS IN SUPPORT OF FY 2026

SECTION 12, FY 2026 FTE POSITION AUTHORIZATION

Department of Administration

Page 37, Lines 3 and 4: Strike “669.6” and replace with “684.6” and strike “419.1” and replace with “434.1”.

ARTICLE 3, RELATING TO GOVERNMENT REFORM AND REORGANIZATION

New Section 14.

Page 87, After Line 13, Insert the following and renumber all subsequent sections accordingly:

SECTION 14. Chapter 36-4 of the General Laws entitled “Merit System” is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

36-4-15.1. Specialized Information Technology positions in state service.

- (a) Definition: “Specialized information technology position” means a technical or specialized job classification in state service under the supervision and/or purview of the division of enterprise technology strategy and services (“ETSS”), within the department of administration. Such positions may include, but are not limited to, roles associated with the selection, design, implementation, security, administration, maintenance, and operations of emerging and existing technologies such as information technology leadership roles (i.e., chief information officer, chief technology officer, chief information security officer, etc.), software/application/cloud architects, engineers, developers and/or programmers, cybersecurity professionals, artificial intelligence analysts, data/database/cloud administrators, and any other information technology positions of a specialized and/or technical nature.
- (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of any law or regulation to the contrary, including the personnel rules adopted pursuant to § 36-4-8, the personnel administrator, in their

sole discretion, may modify, change or amend any official pay plan for employees in the classified or unclassified service in order to create new job classifications, and/or modify the title, content or pay grade of an existing job classification, for any new or existing specialized information technology positions as requested by the Chief Digital Officer.

- (c) The personnel administrator is hereby authorized to take whatever administrative action is necessary to implement the changes to the official pay plans made pursuant to this section with respect to new or existing specialized information technology positions without conducting a public hearing or obtaining the approval of the Governor prior to the implementation of any such action.
- (d) Within 30 days after any personnel action under this section, the personnel administrator shall file a written report with the Governor, the Speaker of the House, the Senate President, and the Chairpersons of the House and Senate finance committees. This report shall include: 1) the title and paygrade of the position(s); 2) the job description of the position; and 3) the reason why the position is necessary. The personnel administrator shall also post the report on the division of human resources' website for at least one year.
- (e) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any specialized information technology position utilized by ETSS that is part of a collective bargaining unit established and certified by the Rhode Island State Labor Relations Board.