MINUTES
Approved by the Committee
Artificial Intelligence Working Group
Tuesday, December 17, 2024
1:00 P.M.
Room EW41
Boise, Idaho

Members in attendance: Cochairs Representative Ehlers and Senator Anthon; Representatives Holtzclaw (remote), Wisniewski (remote), and Redman (remote); Senators Ricks, Cook, Adams, and Shippy. Legislative Services Office (LSO) staff: Matt Drake, Christopher Lehosit, Jennifer Kish, and Linda Jensen. Absent and excused: Representative McCann.

Others in attendance: Jim Berg; Chelsea Canada, William Clark – NCSL; Alberto Gonzales – ITS; Chris Hein – Google; Ira Burton, Lorraine Gaudio – Boise State University; Will Hart – Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities.

NOTE: Presentations and handouts provided by the presenters/speakers are posted to the Idaho Legislature's website https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2024/interim and copies of those items are on file at the Legislative Services Office in the State Capitol. Recordings of the meeting may be available under the committee's listing on the website.

Welcome/Approval of Minutes

At 1:03 p.m., Co-chair Ehlers called the meeting to order; a silent roll call was taken. He asked for a motion on the minutes. **Senator Cook moved to approve the minutes on the November 15, 2024, meeting; Senator Ricks seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.**

At 1:05 p.m., **Jim Berg** presented a PowerPoint, titled The Ethics in Artificial Intelligence. He provided his personal and professional background and highlighted that his ability towards mathematics at an early age and later engineering led to his "dream job." He said he quickly moved into business development and noted that "Deep Blue," or "Big Blue" in the late 1990s was the precipice of AI today. He emphasized that he wished to bring a clear understanding of the technology as it is today, and review the implications from an ethical standpoint. He spoke to two objectives he wanted to relay: to increase the legislature's view of AI, and then go deeper into the ethics of AI. He asked, "What if AI knows us better than we know ourselves?" He mentioned ChatGPT being extremely competent and equivalent to a human being in terms of knowledge. He said in five years, it will increase 100 times and noted the disruption and ethical dilemma it could create. He expounded on the past, present and future of AI and stressed that AI is not a tool, but a "brain." He emphasized the number of applications created by AI. He pointed out that "Generative AI" is good for creating content but "Agentic AI," also known as "Agent AI" is action-based with informed decision making. He said that 2025 begins the year of Agent AI and this creates ethical decisions that must be thought through. He briefly covered Generative vs Agentic AI, standards of mortality and accountability, and funding. He recognized the difficult task legislators have in making decisions surrounding AI and making rules moving forward. He strongly recommended creating an ethics dashboard, measuring it, and finally, asking AI questions. Lastly, he recommended spending time on solving the difficult problems and then focusing on implementation.

- Sen. Adams asked Mr. Berg to expound on the manipulation by AI. Mr. Berg said technology today is a tool, such as asking your cell phone for information, and it is then used for manipulation. He added that every "click" measures what you are doing and attempts to move you towards a "position."

- Cochair Anthon asked how government would insert itself into the free market where there are multiple developers. Mr. Berg said the role of government was to promote good and punish evil, and legislation needed to clearly define what is acceptable and what isn't.
- Sen. Ricks alluded to his tech background and opined that technology moves at lightning speed, but government does not. He asked for guidelines that other states may be using. Mr. Berg said there are links and sites provided in the presentation. He reiterated that the Legislature's job is to promote good and punish evil and it must expose what people are using AI for – which goes back to the suggested dashboard.
- Cochair Ehlers referred to Agent AI and asked for concrete examples. Mr. Berg said it is a "brain" that challenges one's thought process. Cochair Ehlers asked whether Agent AI would have decision-making authority. Mr. Berg answered, "Constrained environment based on moral views."
- Sen. Shippy commented that he asked ChatGPT a question during the meeting and he related what it listed and recognized that it was biased. Mr. Berg agreed.

At 1:44 p.m., **Chelsea Canada**, Program Principal for Financial Services, Technology and Communications, NCSL, joined the discussion and provided a presentation, titled Artificial Intelligence: State Legislative Update. She provided a background on NCSL and gave an overview of recent state legislation. She focused on 2024 legislation, and further discussed state enacted legislative approaches. At 2:03 p.m., she turned the presentation over to **William Clark,** NCSL. He continued on slide 14, titled "NCSL Legislative Use of AI," which featured key takeaways. He briefly discussed NCSL legislative AI survey results, and further noted that the aforementioned useful links could be found on page 16 of the presentation.

At 2:10 p.m., **Alberto Gonzales**, Director, Office of Information Technology Services (ITS), joined the discussion. He provided a handout, titled 2024 AI Survey Briefing to the committee at the hearing. He expounded on the results of the recent survey on the usage of AI in Idaho, and he stressed that there would be an expansion of Generative AI in the next one to three years.

At 2:25 p.m., Cochair Anthon left the meeting.

- Sen. Cook commented that ethical regulations should be addressed and then followed by training. Mr. Gonzales answered that the basic framework of AI policies should be to provide rules of what is acceptable AI use. He agreed with guidance and then building training, and finally, fully implementing a policy.
- Cochair Ehlers asked Mr. Gonzales what most excited him about potential applications, and what he saw as the biggest risk. Mr. Gonzales said productivity and analysis were part of the efficiencies, and the dangerous part was data leakage, but the bias could be controlled. He added that incorrect determinations were the scary pieces. Cochair Ehlers asked if anything new had been discovered in the surveys. Mr. Gonzales said he had learned that "no one has this thing dialed in," but there was much desire in Idaho to start looking into Microsoft Copilot.
- Sen. Ricks asked whether Geofencing was being used within departments. Mr. Gonzales said in ITS it is contained and there is a policy how they will use it. He noted there are many security tool logs, and the use of AI could accelerate the use of these things. He said the ultimate goal was to figure out what was best for government. Sen. Ricks spoke to privacy and questioned whether there was a risk it could be comprised with AI. Mr. Gonzales affirmed it could, and that there must be rules and regulations for employees as they deal with sensitive data. Sen. Ricks noted Mr. Gonzales could be an integral part in helping the Legislature form policy.
- Sen. Cook mentioned Mr. Gonzales meeting with Janelle White (HR), and talked about some concerns of jobs being replaced by AI. He recalled a conference he attended where it was noted that "AI may not replace your job but someone who can use AI may." He opined that employees who learn AI could be more sought after. Mr. Gonzales commented that he appreciated Sen. Cook's perspective.

At 2:37 p.m., **Chris Hein**, Director of Customer Engineering, Public Sector - State and Local Education Division (SLED), Google, joined the discussion online. He provided a handout titled AI Update from Google. He noted that he would focus on Google's perspective on the current climate, and then get into 2025. He went through a timeline of AI innovation, and highlighted that 2017 was the start of the generative revolution. He expanded on the content shown on the slides and that in 2025, there will be a much higher interest around AI agents. He spoke to models that the Idaho government could work with that have enhanced security profiles. He pointed to the last slide in his presentation being in line with the survey that Mr. Gonzales talked about. He shared that the last piece being used in the field was the ability to use AI that understood Cybersecurity.

- Cochair Ehlers welcomed closing discussion and asked for thoughts on the future direction of the committee. He noted an interest in meeting in January and having more discussion on policy recommendations.
- Sen. Cook agreed. He related meeting a Senator from West Virginia at a conference who spoke about what could be done surrounding regulation, and he expressed that he would like the committee to further explore this.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.