

The Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA)

Section-by-Section Analysis

Sec. 1. Short title.

The short title of the bill is the “Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act.”

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

Provides the table of contents.

Sec. 3. Definitions.

Provides the definitions for the purpose of this bill.

TITLE I—MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WITHIN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Sec. 101. Increased authority of agency Chief Information Officers over information technology.

Increases the accountability and authority of the agency Chief Information Officers (CIO) over each agency's information technology (IT) investment practices. Subsection (a) makes CIOs of the 16 major civilian agencies i) presidential appointees or designees; ii) maintain a direct reporting link with the head of the agency. Listed below are the 16 agencies:

The Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Education, the Department of Energy, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Justice, the Department of Labor, the Department of State, the Department of Transportation, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Subsection (b) provides additional budget and personnel-related authority to 23 major civilian agencies. Listed below are the additional 7 agencies that are covered by this subsection:

The Agency for International Development, the General Services Administration, the National Science Foundation, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Office of Personnel Management, the Small Business Administration, the Social Security Administration.

Subsection (c) eliminates redundant CIO positions within each executive agency covered by the Clinger-Cohen Act by requiring there be only one CIO for the entire agency.

Sec. 102. Lead coordination role of Chief Information Officers Council.

Expands the role of the CIO Council to encompass a more active role in portfolio-based oversight and establishment of cross-agency IT standards and practices. The word "acquisition" in the current statutory language is removed to clarify the potential conflict of authority between CIOs and CAOs. Requires additional reporting obligations to allow further transparency into the activities and roles of the CIO Council.

Sec. 103. Reports by Government Accountability Office.

Requires GAO review of CIO Council effectiveness.

TITLE II—DATA CENTER OPTIMIZATION

Sec. 201. Purpose.

The purpose of this title is to optimize Federal data center usage and efficiency.

Sec. 202. Definitions.

Provides the definitions for the purpose of this title.

Sec. 203. Federal Data Center Optimization Initiative.

Requires the Federal CIO to develop and implement the Federal Data Center Optimization Initiative to optimize the usage and efficiency of federal data centers.

Sec. 204. Performance requirements related to data center consolidation.

Requires greater emphasis and clarity on performance with respect to the server utilization and energy efficiency related to federal data centers.

Sec. 205. Cost savings related to data center optimization.

Requires tracking and reporting of cost savings realized from Data Center Optimization. Authorizes the savings to be used to offset implementation costs of the initiative, or be invested in IT enhancement that improve capabilities and services. Requires GAO to examine and verify the accuracy of the methods to calculate savings.

Sec. 206. Reporting requirements to Congress and the Federal Chief Information Officer.

Requires each agency to annually report to the Federal CIO on the implementation of the Federal Data Center Optimization Initiative. The Federal CIO, in turn, is required to assess agency progress and report to congress.

TITLE III—ELIMINATION OF DUPLICATION AND WASTE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION

Sec. 301. Inventory of information technology assets.

Requires the Director of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to plan and implement for conducting a Governmentwide inventory of IT assets with particular focus on software licenses.

Sec. 302. Website consolidation and transparency.

Requires the Director of OMB to eliminate or consolidate duplicative or overlapping public federal government websites. Requires the Director to issue guidance to ensure that the data on such websites are open and accessible to the public.

Sec. 303. Transition to the cloud.

Expresses the intent of Congress that transition to cloud computing offers significant potential benefits for the federal IT projects. Requires the CIO Council to provide guidelines for the establishment of government-wide standards for security assessments pertaining to cloud offerings. Grants broader budget flexibility to the CIOs in the 24 Chief Financial Officer Act (CFO Act) agencies to establish cloud service Working Capital Funds.

Sec. 304. Elimination of unnecessary duplication of contracts by requiring business case analysis.

Eliminates unnecessary duplication of IT contracts across the federal enterprise by requiring that the agencies obtain the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) approval of business case when creating a new government-wide contract vehicle.

TITLE IV—STRENGTHENING AND STREAMLINING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Subtitle A—Strengthening and streamlining IT Program Management Practices

Sec. 401. Establishment of Federal Infrastructure and Common Application Collaboration Center.

Establishes the Federal Infrastructure and Common Application Collaboration Center (Collaboration Center) to promote coordinated program management practices for the acquisition of IT infrastructure and business applications commonly used by various federal agencies. It is

funded without appropriations utilizing the existing fees already collected for certain interagency contracts.

Sec. 402. Designation of Assisted Acquisition Centers of Excellence.

Requires designation of specialized Assisted Acquisition Centers of Excellence (AACE) to promote government-wide leverage of IT procurement special expertise that exists within government. AACEs are provided with enhanced budget flexibilities to enable long term IT acquisition planning.

Subtitle B—Strengthening IT Acquisition Workforce

Sec. 411. Expansion of training and use of information technology acquisition cadres.

Requires OMB to prepare and implement a 5-year strategic plan to enhance IT acquisition workforce capabilities. Requires annual progress report and GAO verification to ensure effective implementation.

Sec. 412. Plan on strengthening program and project management performance.

Requires the Director of OMB, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), to provide a plan for improving management of IT programs and projects by creating a specialized career path for IT program managers.

Sec. 413. Personnel awards for excellence in the acquisition of information systems and information technology.

Requires the Director of the OPM to develop policy to recognize excellent performance in the acquisition of IT, including monetary incentives.

TITLE V—ADDITIONAL REFORMS

Sec. 501. Maximizing the benefit of the Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative.

Requires the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to be amended to ensure proper consideration of the Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative (FSSI) by contracting personnel.

Sec. 502. Promoting transparency of blanket purchase agreements.

Requires the Administrator of General Services Administration to publish a list of all blanket purchase agreements entered into by federal agencies under its Federal Supply Schedules contract and the associated prices.

Sec. 503. Additional source selection technique in solicitations.

Provides an additional, non-mandatory source selection technique called "fixed price technical competition" to enhance best value acquisition practices.

Sec. 504. Enhanced transparency in information technology investments.

Increases the transparency of IT investments by requiring 80 percent of the governmentwide IT spending, and 60 percent of each of the 24 CFO Act agency IT spending be covered by the IT Dashboard. Requires OMB to ensure that the information posted is current, accurate, and reflects the risks associated with each covered IT investment.

Sec. 505. Enhanced communication between Government and industry.

Requires strengthening of the government-industry exchange of information to enhance acquisition planning.

Sec. 506. Clarification of current law with respect to open source software.

Clarifies that open source software should be viewed on a level playing field with other forms of software acquisitions.