Executive Summary:

Government Electronic Management System (GEMS)

Six years in development and operational since August 2008, GEMS replaces an archaic thirty-year old legislative bill drafting system. It was designed as a single, integrated system to provide Idaho Code and Session Law research, draft and track legislation, manage information flow between the Legislative Services Office and House and Senate staff, produce and manage legislative calendars and daily journals, update the Idaho Code database, produce such publications as the Legislative Directory, Idaho Code, Daily Data, reading calendars, journals and special reports, and also to automatically update the Idaho Legislature's website.

This seamless, integrated system greatly improves the accessibility of the Legislative process to the rest of state government and to the citizens of the state, and its successful development and implementation is an extension of the IT philosophy that ITRMC has pioneered in state government.

GEMS is now a proven success. By streamlining and integrating the legislative process, the system makes it possible for data to be entered only once, then to create a multitude of products, from draft bills to final journals – with increased accuracy and timeliness. GEMS makes it possible for staff to create better products and makes the information concerning legislation on the Legislature's website more readily available to state agencies and the citizens of Idaho. The entire legislative process can be followed online from beginning to end through the products resulting from GEMS.

As a result of GEMS, administrators in the Senate and the House of Representatives will be using fewer staff members in the coming years. The Legislative Services Office will be able to eliminate many hours of overtime formerly worked by staff during legislative sessions as a direct result of fewer manual system hours, and this will result in higher productivity without adding more staff.

GEMS has been developed largely in-house, and compared to several other state legislature's recent experience in developing large, complex new IT systems, our effort has proven to be the most cost effective in the nation. With the new integrated system, there will be measurable significant savings in overtime and seasonal personnel, and as a result we will see a payback on our investment in three to five years.