Rep. Nathanson

Department of Administrative Services
Online Training Report

The General Government Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Committee on Ways and Means acknowledge receipt of a report on potential savings from increased utilization of online training.

A budget note from the 2013 session directed the Department of Administrative Services to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of trainings using web-based applications compared to the total costs of providing traditional training. DAS surveyed the 24 agencies representing the Enterprise Leadership Team on costs associated with online training and more traditional instructor-led training. Survey respondents reported a total of 1740 training course offered during the 2011-13 biennium for state employees. About 30% of these were online trainings and the remaining 70% were categorized as instructor-led trainings.

Over 75% of the instructor-led trainings were listed as highly interactive and in-the-field trainings dealing with such subjects as weapons training, equipment handling, emergency response, and identifying signs of abuse. DAS reported that requiring these types of trainings to be conducted online could compromise their effectiveness. The DAS report concluded that state agencies should continue to maximize the use of technology to provide training courses in a cost effective way, when doing so does not compromise the ability to convey the information the employee needs to effectively do their job.

The General Government Subcommittee recommends approval of the request.