

# VITL FY2021 Budget Review

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# GMCB Oversight of VITL



- **Review and approve VITL budget.**
  - 18 V.S.A. § 9375(b)(2)(C): The Board is required to “Annually review and approve the budget, consistent with available funds, of the Vermont Information Technology Leaders, Inc. (VITL). This review shall take into account VITL's responsibilities pursuant to section 9352 of this title and the availability of funds needed to support those responsibilities.”
    - Under 18 V.S.A. § 9352(c)(1), VITL is “designated... to operate the exclusive statewide health information exchange network.”
  - The Board’s oversight is intended to provide strategic guidance and policy parameters within which the Administration, through DVHA, operationalizes that relationship. GMCB first reviewed and approved VITL’s budget in 2016.
  - Prior to 2018, GMCB also reviewed VITL’s core activities; this was removed from the Board’s duties by Act 187 of 2018.

# Budget Review Criteria

- The Board has in the past adopted specific principles to assess VITL's budgets, described on the GMCB website. Staff recommend that the Board utilize these criteria in their review of VITL's budget, focusing on Transparency, Alignment with HIE Goals, and Stakeholder Recommendation:
  1. The review process will be transparent and will incorporate public input.
  2. The Board will review VITL's budget in order to determine whether they reflect a strategy and priorities consistent with the State's health care reform goals and the Health Information Technology (HIT) Plan. The Board will not direct the technical details of VITL's work or the details of VITL's contractual relationship with the State.
  3. The Board's review process must be structured and timed in order to assist the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) and VITL in negotiating timely, effective grant agreements each year.
  4. The process must result in Board decisions that are sufficiently clear to enable VITL to do its work and DVHA to support that work without requiring repeated clarification or intervention by the Board.