

An Act to Regulate Government Software Procurement

Whereas a Standard Software Suite simplifies system Procurement and Maintenance, and

Whereas a Government Standard should take into account cost, support, and archival usage, and

Whereas a Government's Operations should not be held hostage to proprietary systems or practices, and

Whereas flexibility and choice within reasonable bounds is a hall-mark of Good Governance, and

Whereas the Government of the Dominion of British West Florida should lead by Example,

Now Therefore, by the Grace of Queen Elizabeth the second's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advise and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and of the Commons of the Dominion of British West Florida, we enact as follows:

We Direct that all Government Procurement of Software will first consider Free and Open Source solutions,.

We Prohibit the consideration of closed or proprietary systems unless a free and open solution is not available.

We Direct that the Government of the Dominion of British West Florida will use OpenOffice as its Office Software, and that all government files will be saved in the Open Document Format.

We Declare that the use of other Office Software within Government Offices will not be prohibited, as long as such software is able to exchange files and data with the chosen system.

We Direct that the House of Lords Committee on Stamps and Stationery shall be required to publish from time to time a listing of the Standard Software in use by the Government, and exceptions to the use of the Standard Software, and the reason for such exceptions.

Approved by the House of Lords on 22 November in the Year of our Lord 2006

Laid before the Throne on 27 November 2006

Granted the Royal Assent by His Excellency the Governor-General on 1 December 2006.

