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2009 State Legislative Spending Transparency Efforts (preliminary list, as of July 14)

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Alabama:

[SB 204](#), sponsored by Rep. Arthur Orr (R-Decatur), mandates the construction of a searchable online database. This transparency site is to feature all state expenditures, including contracts and grants. The bill mandates that the site be ready for launch by October 1, 2010.

Read for the second time in the Senate, assigned to the Finance Committee, on February 5, 2009. Passed Senate on March 5, 2009. Reported favorably from Government Appropriations on March 12, 2009.

Alaska

[SB 2](#), sponsored by Senator Wielechowski and entitled the Alaska Open Government Act, would create an online database of the state's finances including monthly expenditures over \$1,000 and revenue information. The act mandates that the site be available by October 1, 2010.

Introduced January 21, 2009. Referred to the Finance Committee on April 7, 2009.

Arizona:

[SB 1142](#), sponsored by Sen. Jonathan Paton (R-Tucson), establishes searchable online databases for all state and local expenditures. The proposed bill provides for the creation of a user-friendly site containing all state monies, while protecting personal information, with a deadline for launch by January 1, 2010. The bill also mandates that all cities, towns, and counties establish similar transparency websites, with larger jurisdictions set for launch by January 1, 2010, and smaller locales by 2011.

Introduced on January 26, 2009. Referred to Appropriations and recommended Do Pass on June 9, 2009.

[SB 1441](#), sponsored by Sen. Al Melvin (R-Tucson), establishes online portals for states spending. It also requires that counties, towns and school districts post their expenditure data online in a searchable format by January 1, 2011. The entities that would be required to disclose their financial information include community colleges and state universities.

Introduced February 3, 2009. Referred to Appropriations and recommended Do Pass on June 9, 2009.

[SCR 1012](#), sponsored by Sen. Pearce, proposes an amendment to the Arizona constitution that would create a searchable online database of all state and local revenues and expenditures. The bill requires that the state treasurer and every town or county's treasurer maintain the database of their localities' expenses on their own website, which must be operational by July 1, 2012.

First read on January 26, 2009

Arkansas:

[HB 1053](#), titled the Open Checkbooks in Government Act, sponsored by Dan Greenberg (R-Little Rock), call for the creation of a searchable website cataloguing all state expenditures and bond proceeds. The website also will include electronic copies of all state grants, contracts, and subcontracts, as well as a listing of all public meetings.

Read for the second time and assigned to State Agencies and Governmental Affairs Committee on January 12, 2009. Deferred in committee on April 6, 2009.

California

[SB 719](#), introduced by Senator Huff and entitled the Taxpayer Transparency Act of 2009, would require all state agencies to post their expenditure information online, including contracts, grants, purchase orders, subcontracts, tax refunds, rebates and credits.

Placed on appropriations suspense file on April 27, 2009.

Colorado:

[HB 1288](#), entitled the Colorado Taxpayer Transparency Act, sponsored by Rep. B.J. Nikkel (R-Larimer County), mandates the publication of state revenue and expenditures in a single searchable website. The information is currently compiled in the State Financial System Database, and the legislation makes this information available for public scrutiny by January 1, 2010.

Referred favorably from Finance to Appropriation with amendment on March 4, 2009. Passed the House on April 16, 2009. Passed the Senate on May 5, 2009. Signed into law June 2009.

Connecticut:

[HB 5097](#), sponsored by William Hamzy (R-Terryville), aims to make public the state budget. A brief bill, it orders the Office of Policy and Management as well as the Office of Fiscal Analysis to publish their budgets on the Internet.

Referred to Appropriations Committee on January 15, 2009.

[HB 5959](#), sponsored by Rep. William Hamzy (R-Terryville), would require the Office of Policy and Management and the Office of Fiscal Analysis to post the state budget on their respective websites.

Referred to Joint Committee on Government Administration and Elections on January 26, 2009.

[SB 1148](#), introduced by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, seeks to add grant information to the state's contracting portal.

Reported favorably out of Legislative Commissioner's Office on April 15, 2009 and placed on Senate calendar.

Delaware:

[HB 1](#), titled An Act to Amend Title 29 of the Delaware Code Relating to the Freedom of Information Act, sponsored by Rep. Robert Gilligan (D-Wilmington), passed committee. The bill allows for public access to Delaware General Assembly meetings, as well as all General Assembly Records.

Passed by the House with Amendments on March 20, 2009. Referred to the Senate Executive Committee on March 25, 2009. Reported out of committee on May 6, 2009. Laid on table in Senate on May 14, 2009.

[HB 89](#) – (Sponsors: State Rep. Greg Lavelle (R-Sharples), State Sen. George Bunting (D-Bethany Beach), and State Sen. Karen Peterson (D-Stanton)) – This act would require information concerning the distributions from the Delaware Strategic Fund to be posted on the Delaware Economic Development Office’s website. *(In the 144th G.A.: HB 331/SB 188)*

Introduced and assigned to the House Administration Committee on March 24, 2009

[HB 87](#) – (Sponsors: Rep. Lavelle & Sen. Bunting, et. al.) – This act would require each school district and charter school to post its checking account activity (other than payroll checks) on its website. It would also require that salary and benefits to be posted by job title at the beginning of each fiscal year. *(In the 144th G.A.: HB 337/SB 186)*

Introduced and assigned to the House Education Committee on March 24, 2009

[HB 90](#) – (Sponsors: Rep. Lavelle & Sen. Bunting, et. al.) – This act would require the creation of a searchable budget database website to allow taxpayers to access details of how their tax dollars are being spent. *(In the 144th G.A.: HB 334/SB 184)*

Introduced and assigned to the House Administration Committee on March 24, 2009

[HB 86](#) – (Sponsors: Rep. Lavelle & Sen. Bunting, et. al.) – This bill would require each state agency to post its checking account activity (other than payroll checks) on its website. It would further require salary and benefits to be posted by job title at the beginning of each fiscal year. *(In the 144th G.A.: HB 336/SB 187)*

Introduced and assigned to the House Administration Committee on March 24, 2009

[HB 88](#) – (Sponsors: Rep. Lavelle & Sen. Peterson, et. al.) – This act seeks to require the creation and maintenance of a searchable website for contracts entered into by school districts and charter schools. *(In the 144th G.A.: HB 338 and SB 185)*

Introduced and assigned to the House Education Committee on March 24, 2009.

Florida

[HB 971](#), sponsored by Representative Dorothy L. Hukill (R-Port Orange) and titled the Government Accountability Act was passed unanimously in the house on March 17, 2009. The act creates a searchable website where Floridians are able to track their tax dollars and will be launched by July 1, 2009.

Referred to the Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council on March 23, 2009. Placed on the House’s calendar on April 20, 2009

[SB 1796](#), sponsored by Senator JD Alexander, creates the Transparency Florida Act which directs the Legislative Auditing Committee to oversee the creation of a website by the Executive Office of the Governor that would provide information on state appropriations and expenditures.

Committee substitute passed the Senate on April 16, 2009. House refused to concur, referred to Conference Committee on May 1, 2009. Passed the House and Senate on May 8, 2009. Signed into law in May 2009.

Georgia

Legislation created by Senator Chip Rogers (R-Woodstock) was signed into law in May of 2008 mandating the creation of a website that would provide taxpayers with access to information about state expenditures. The site includes an area where Georgians can search for a performance audit on a specific agency, allowing them to see how effective government agencies have been over the past five years.

Hawaii

[HB 122](#) was enacted into law on July 11, 2007 by the legislature without the Governor's signature. The site failed to launch by its January 2009 deadline.

[SB 659](#) has been introduced in 2009 to reignite transparency efforts. The bill amends disclosure requirements for money recipients from the state. It also requires the Department of Accounting and General Services to provide this information on a website, effective July 1, 2009.

Passed by the House on May 5, 2009. Passed by the Senate on May 7, 2009. Signed into law July 2009.

Idaho

[HO 177](#) requires the State Controller to create and maintain an online searchable website of state spending data.

Introduced February 20, 2009. Referred to House State Affairs Committee on February 23. Failed to be voted out of committee on February 19, 2009.

Illinois:

[HB 0194](#), sponsored by Suzanne Bassi (R-Palatine), aims to establish a "single searchable updated database website" containing information on every entity that receives state funds. The website will be launched by July 1, 2010 under the direction of the Governor's Office of Management and Budget.

Bill passed in the House on March 17, 2009. Referred to the Senate Assignments committee on March 18, 2009. First read in the Senate on April 18, 2009, referred Executive Committee on April 22, 2009. Re-referred to Assignments on May 8, 2009.

[HB 0035](#), sponsored by Rep. Michael Tryon (R-Crystal Lake), establishes the Illinois Accountability Portal. The Portal will include databases of all State employee and consultant salaries, expenditures, tax credits, and contracts, as well as a database including all revocations and suspensions of state employment or professional licenses. The bill has been amended to impose a deadline for launch by January 1, 2011.

Passed the legislature May 15, 2009. Awaits the Governor's signature as of July 14, 2009.

Indiana

HB 1280, sponsored by Rep. Peggy Welch, charges the state auditor with the duty of posting state expenditures and account balances no later than July 1, 2009. It requires state agencies to supply the auditor with information on their finances as well as post a link to the state website.

Passed the House on February 24, 2009. Referred to the Senate Committee on Tax and Fiscal Policy. Reported Do Pass on April 7, 2009.

Iowa

[HF 74](#), the Iowa Taxpayer Transparency Act of 2009, sponsored by Rep. Kraig Paulsen (R-Hiawatha) would create a single website database for taxpayers to search state expenditures and all tax rates across the state.

Referred to the State Government Committee on January 23, 2009, and assigned to the Subcommittee, Rep. Frevert (D-Emmetsburg), Chair, on January 26, 2009. Bill Replaced by [HF 801](#), passed House 96-3 on March 24, 2009. Bill read for the first time and referred to the State Government Committee, assigned to the Danielson, Feenstra, and Jochum subcommittee on March 25, 2009.

[SF 102](#), is identical to the House version and is sponsored by Sen. Paul McKinley (R-Chariton)

Introduced and referred to the State Government Committee on February 4, 2009. Assigned to the Subcommittee, Sen. Courtney (D-Burlington), Chair, on February 5, 2009.

Kansas:

[SB 226](#), introduced by Sen. Tim Huelskamp (R-Fowler), is an expansion of the Kansas Taxpayer Transparency Act to include the single largest function of government dollars in Kansas – the 300 local school districts. The bill also mandates the publication of each legislator’s votes on any bill during the legislative session.

Introduced on February 5, 2009 and referred to the Ways and Means Committee on February 6, 2009.

Louisiana

[HB 169](#) would require the Office of the Governor to be subject to the same disclosure laws as other public officials, with a few exceptions.

Involuntarily deferred in House & Governmental Affairs Committee on April 29, 2009.

Michigan:

[HB 4043](#), sponsored by Rep. Kim Meltzer (R-Lansing), seeks to establish a searchable website containing information on all state expenditures. A concisely worded bill, it amends the Management and Budget Act. Currently, the Office of Management and Budget of Michigan does not even have access to information of the expenditures of all state agencies. The bill requires the compilation of the list of expenditures of each state agency for inclusion in the website.

Referred to the Committee on Oversight and Investigations on January 22, 2009. Reassigned to the Committee on Urban Policy on February 5, 2009. Referred to the Committee on Government Operations on February 26, 2009.

[HB 4150](#), sponsored by Rep. Paul Opsommer (R-DeWitt) and entitled the Management and Budget Act, mandates the creation of a searchable website cataloguing all state expenditures

including purchases, contracts and grants. The site is required to be in operation by January 1, 2010.

Referred to the Committee on Oversight and Investigations on February 4, 2009. Reassigned to the Committee on Government Operations on February 26, 2009.

[HB 4121](#), sponsored by Tom McMillin (R-Auburn Hills), features language identical to HB 4150.

Referred to the Committee on Oversight and Investigations on January 27, 2009. Reassigned to the Committee on Government Operations on February 26, 2009.

Minnesota

HF 376 sponsored by Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie) was included in the [omnibus state government finance bill](#) (see section 34) which passed the legislature and was sent to Gov. Pawlenty on May 4th, 2007.

Missouri:

[HB 544](#), sponsored by Rep. Jason Smith (R-Salem), would codify the executive order that created the Missouri Accountability Portal into law and create a commission to study and diagnose wasteful spending in the state.

Bill passed the House, amended in the Senate and reported back to the House on April 28, 2009. Agreed to and passed by both chambers on May 5, 2009. Vetoed by the Governor on July 13, 2009.

[HB 174](#), sponsored by Rep. Stanley Cox (R-Sedalia), intends to add to the required information the governor must submit to the legislature, specifically, the dispersal of state funds through contracts and tax issuances. The new information will be searchable and available on the Missouri Accountability Portal website.

Referred to Corrections and Public Institutions Committee on January 22, 2009. Voted Do Pass on March 11, 2009.

[SB 155](#), sponsored by Sen. Jack Goodman (R-Mt. Vernon), is identical to the bill proposed in the house.

Referred to the Governmental Accountability and Fiscal Oversight Committee on January 26, 2009. Hearing scheduled for February 12, 2009. Reported from Committee to floor on March 12, 2009. Removed from Senate Consent Calendar March 23, 2009.

Montana:

[SB 241](#), the Taxpayer Right to Know Act, sponsored by Sen. Joe Balyeat (R-Bozeman), aims to create a searchable state website cataloguing revenue, appropriations, and expenditures of state funds. The legislation, proposed on January 17, 2009, sets a goal for launching the site by July, 2009.

Referred to the State Administration Committee on January 17, 2009. Hearing in committee took place on January 28, 2009. The bill passed the Senate and the Taxation Committee in the house held a hearing on March 31, 2009. The bill failed to make it out of committee.

New Jersey:

[S 445](#) sponsored by Sen. Joe Pennacchio (R-Morris) seeks to create a state public finance website. This searchable site is set to include all revenues, expenditures, and compensation for state employees, as well as state bond debts. This searchable website is required to be launched by . The legislation also creates the Public Finance Transparency Committee to oversee the website and act in advisory the Chief Technology Officer and State Treasurer.

Fiscal Estimate Report introduced on January 12, 2009.

Corresponding house legislation: [AB 1691](#), titled the Transparency in Government Act, sponsored by Assemblywoman Allison Littell McHose (R-Sparta), and Assemblymen Gary Chiusano (R-Sparta), and Jay Webber (R-Morris Plains).

Fiscal Estimate Report introduced on January 15, 2009.

New Mexico:

[SB 159](#), called the Budget Transparency Act, sponsored by Sen. Sander Rue (R-Albuquerque), proposes the creation of an online searchable budget database including expenditures of state and local governments. Local governments will be required to publish their budgets by June 1, 2010, while the state site will be launched by October 1, 2010.

Referred to the Senate Corporations and Transportation Committee on January 21, 2009. Substituted in committee and passed unanimously by the Senate. Referred to the House Taxation and revenue Committee, recommended Do Pass March 14, 2009. Action Postponed Indefinitely.

North Dakota:

[HB 1377](#), sponsored by Rep. Blair Thoreson (R-Fargo), seeks to establish a searchable database of state expenditures. The bill requires that the database include the author, recipient, source of funds, and purpose for all state expenditures. The legislation sets a deadline of January 1, 2010, and establishes strict oversight by the Director of Budget.

Read and referred to the Appropriations Committee on January 12, 2009. Hearing held on January 19, 2009. Passed House on February 13, 2009. Amended by Senate Appropriations Committee and passed. Returned to house for consideration of the Senate Amendment on April 6, 2009. House referred to confer – sent to conference committee. Heard in conference committee on April 27, 2009.

- Killed in Conference and amended into SB 2018. Signed into law May 13, 2009.

Oregon:

[HB 2500](#), sponsored by Reps. Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay), Jefferson Smith (D-Portland), Kim Thatcher (R-Keizer, Newberg, St. Paul), and Gene Whisnant (R-Sunriver) would create a searchable website detailing comprehensive information on government revenues and expenditures including recipients of funds, location, purpose, and performance outcome. Salary information would also be included, as well as links to each state agency transaction register.

Referred to the Rules Committee with Subsequent referral to the Ways and Means Committee on February 3, 2009. Hearing held on April 13, 2009. Passed Rules Committee on April 15, 2009. Passed the legislature on April 29, 2009. Awaits the governor's signature as of July 14, 2009.

[HB 2037](#), sponsored by Rep. Dave Hunt (D-Clackamas County), will create a public, online, searchable database for all government contracts. This is a lengthy, thorough bill that places heavy emphasis on the procedure through which various government agencies must go in order to properly report and publish state contracts.

Referred to the Business and Labor Committee on January, 15, 2009. Referred to the Rules Committee on April 10, 2009.

Pennsylvania:

[SB 105](#), entitled the Taxpayer Transparency Act, sponsored by Sen. Patrick Browne (R-Allentown), mandates the creation of a searchable online budget database. The site is set to include all grants, contracts, appropriations, tax exemptions, and tax credits by June 1, 2009.

Referred to Finance on February 6, 2009. Reported out of committee on April 20, 2009. Amended on third consideration May 6, 2009.

[SB 107](#), entitled the Government Salary Information Act, sponsored by Sen. Dominic Pileggi (R-Chester), establishes a searchable online database featuring the salaries of Commonwealth Agency employees, and mandates the creation of similar sites by all local jurisdictions by July 1, 2009.

Referred to State Government on January, 29, 2009. Referred to Appropriations on February 11, 2009.

[HB 1460](#), introduced by Rep. Jim Christiana (R-Punxsutawney) and entitled the Pennsylvania Web Accountability, Transparency and Contract Hub (PennWATCH) Act requires Commonwealth Agencies to submit information on their revenues and expenditures to the Treasurer to be made available online by August 31, 2009.

Referred to Committee on State Government on May 8, 2009

Tennessee:

[HB 301](#), entitled the "Taxpayer Transparency Act," introduced by Rep. G.A. Hardaway (D-Memphis), mandates that the Department of Finance and Administration create a searchable website publishing all state "taxpayer investments." The site is to include all contracts, grants, and appropriations for public viewing by January 1, 2010.

Placed on s/c al Budget of FW&M for April 1, 2009 on March 25, 2009. Action deferred on April 1, 2009. RE-referred to Senate Finance, Ways & Means Committee on March 9, 2009.

[SB 509](#), introduced by Sen. Tim Burchett (R-Knoxville), features language identical to that of HB 301.

Referred to the Tax Subcommittee

[HB 246](#), entitled the "Taxpayer Transparency Act," introduced by Rep. Susan Lynn, mandates the creation of a single searchable website cataloguing all state expenditures including grants, contracts, appropriations, and tax credits. The site will be available for public viewing by January 1, 2010.

Assigned to the Budget Subcommittee of the Finance, Ways, and Means Committee on February 18, 2009

Texas:

[HB 1307](#), sponsored by Rep. Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe), mandates that schools post all expenditures, checks written, and credit card transactions online within one month.

Filed February 17, 2009. Referred to the Public Education Committee on February 26, 2009.

[HB 1314](#), sponsored by Rep. Mark Strama (D-Austin), is also under consideration, mandating that schools post their expenditures quarterly.

Filed February 17, 2009. Left pending in the Public Education Committee on March 24, 2009.

Utah:

[SB 18](#), sponsored by Sen. Wayne Niederhauser (R-Sandy), mandates that municipalities previously excluded from the Utah Public Finance Website provided information and records for public view. The bill also includes provisions requiring easier search functions and for local governments to provide links to their websites.

Passed senate on February 2, 2009. Received a favorable recommendation from House Government Operations Committee on February 6, 2009, and was referred to Rules Committee due to fiscal impact. Signed into law on March 25, 2009.

Virginia:

[SB 936](#), sponsored by Ken Cuccinelli (R-Fairfax), attempts to create a searchable website containing all of Virginia's revenues, appropriations, and expenditures, going further than the Commonwealth Datapoint currently does. The website will be placed under the supervision of the Office of the Secretary of Technology in the Virginia Enterprise Application Program (VEAP). The bill calls for the Director of VEAP to develop the site for public use by July 1, 2010.

Reported Favorably from the Finance Committee on February 5, 2009. Signed by the Governor on March 30, 2009.

[HB 2285](#), sponsored by Del. Ben Cline (R-Amherst), is the house version of SB 936.

Reported with a substitute from the Appropriations Committee on February 6, 2009, engrossed by House - committee substitute on February 9, 2009. Governor's recommendation agreed to on April 8, 2009.

Washington

[SB 6818](#) required the Office of Financial Management to create website that would give taxpayers access to expenditures, revenues and performance audits. It mandates that the site provide current and historical budget data. The Governor signed the bill into law April 1, 2008. The website went live December 3, 2008.

West Virginia

[HB 3091](#), sponsored by Del. Jonathan Miller (R-Berkeley) and named the Budget and Spending Transparency Act aims to create a searchable online database which allows taxpayers access to all state government spending. The website is to be created no later than January 1, 2010.

Introduced on March 12, 2009; referred to the Committee on the Judiciary then Finance

Wisconsin

[HB 120](#), introduced on March 4, 2009 by Robin Vos (R-Racine) seeks to create a searchable website that would allow Wisconsin taxpayers to see any government expenditures exceeding \$100. It would also provide information on state contracts and grants. The website would be launched by July 1, 2011.

Referred to Committee on State Affairs and Homeland Security on March 4, 2009. Fiscal Estimate received on March 16, 2009.

[HB196](#), introduced on April 7, 2009 by Representative Bill Kramer (R-Waukesha) seeks to create a searchable website that would allow Wisconsin taxpayers to view any government expenditure of contract exceeding \$25. This legislation also mandates that school districts disclose their finances to the online portal. The website would be launched by July 1, 2011.

Referred to Committee on State Affairs and Homeland Security on April 7, 2009. [Fiscal note](#) received on April 27, 2009.

Wyoming:

[HB 144](#), sponsored by Sue Wallis (R-Recluse), will create a searchable Internet database of state expenditures, audits and budgets by January 1, 2010. The bill also creates the Select Committee on Technology, Reporting, and Analytics, which will assemble the website and report its findings and the state of the public finance site to the legislature.

Passed by Committee of the Whole on February 5, 2009. Laid back pursuant to HR 9-3 c. Signed into law by governor on March 12, 2009.

For further information please contact Sandra Fabry, government affairs manager and executive director of the Center for Fiscal Accountability at 202-785-0266 or via email at sfabry@atr.org www.fiscalaccountability.org