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2009 State Legislative Spending Transparency Efforts (preliminary list)

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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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Reported out of the House Administration Committee on its merits on January 21, 2009.

Rep. Greg Lavelle will be sponsoring legislation pushing for the creation of a state transparency website.

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.

Assigned to the State Government Administration Committee on February 4, 2009. Hearing Scheduled for February 10, 2009.

[HB 0035](#), sponsored by Rep. Michael Tryon (R-Crystal Lake), establishes the Illinois Accountability Portal. The Portal will include databases of all State employees, consultants, expenditures, tax credits, and contracts, as well as a database including all revocations and suspensions of state employment or professional licenses.

Assigned to the State Government Administration Committee on February 4, 2009. Hearing Scheduled for February 10, 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.

[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 legislators 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.

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.

Missouri:

[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.

[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.

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.

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.

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.

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 is also 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.

[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.

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.

[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.

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.

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.

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

Reported with a substitute from the Appropriations Committee on February 6, 2009, engrossed by House - committee substitute on February 9, 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.

*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
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