
DIGEST

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HB 298 Reengrossed

2016 Regular Session

Ivey

Abstract: Requires the state treasurer to establish and maintain "Louisiana Checkbook", a Louisiana fiscal transparency website as a source of information for state expenditures.

Proposed law requires the state treasurer to establish and maintain a Louisiana fiscal transparency website as a source of information for state expenditures named "Louisiana Checkbook".

Proposed law requires state agencies to provide information to the treasurer and further requires that the costs of the website be distributed among the state agencies on a pro rata share of their total appropriations in the fiscal year in which costs are incurred.

Proposed law requires the website to include the following information:

- (1) A searchable database of all state expenditures reported by state agencies.
- (2) Ability to search and aggregate expenditures by state agency, category of expense, and vendor or contractor.
- (3) Ability to download information from the website.

Proposed law further requires the reporting of the following for each expenditure by a state agency:

- (1) The amount of the expenditure.
- (2) The date of the payment of the expenditure.
- (3) The vendor or contractor to which the expenditure was paid.
- (4) The state agency that made the expenditure, including the name, phone number, electronic mail address, and physical address of an agency contact.

Proposed law requires the state treasurer to develop a list of information that will be redacted or reported in the aggregate to protect the confidentiality of the information or to protect a person's reasonable right to privacy. Requires the list to be developed with input from each state agency and subject to approval of the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs.

Proposed law requires the legislative auditor to do periodic and unscheduled audits of each state agency for the purpose of determining if the agency is in compliance with proposed law. Further requires the auditor to report any state agencies that are not in compliance to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and the state treasurer.

Proposed law also requires that if the legislative auditor determines that expenditures were negligently omitted from reporting to the treasurer, a penalty of \$500 per omission, not to exceed \$10,000 per agency per audit shall be assessed. Further requires any fines collected to be available for the legislative auditor for the audit costs.

Proposed law requires that if an agency does not report expenditure information to the treasurer in three consecutive months, the treasurer is authorized and directed to withhold 15% of any warrants drawn on the state treasury by the agency until the agency reports the information.

Effective July 1, 2016.

Requirements for the implementation of the website effective on July 1, 2017.

(Adds R.S. 39:440-443)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Add requirement that the state treasurer develop a list of information that will be redacted or reported in the aggregate to protect the confidentiality of the information or to protect a person's reasonable right to privacy.
2. Change effective date from signature of the governor to July 1, 2016, with requirements for the implementation of the website effective July 1, 2017.