



AB 400 (De León) State Budget Transparency

PURPOSE:

Provide greater transparency in the state budget process, so the public can easily access and readily review how taxpayer money is spent.

BACKGROUND:

The 2006 passage of the federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (S. 2590, the "FAT" Act) was the culmination of a bipartisan effort to add more sunshine and accountability to government operations. This legislation was sponsored by Senators Tom Coburn (R-OK) and Barack Obama (D-IL), and mandates a free, searchable database that includes information on all federal grant and contract expenditures over \$25,000. This on-line database is maintained by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and launched on December 13, 2007; the website can be found at www.usaspending.gov.

Parallel budget transparency efforts soon followed at the state level, and in 2007, the legislatures of Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Hawaii, and Minnesota, passed "Taxpayer Transparency Acts" or similar legislation.

In addition, several governors have since issued executive orders to provide greater transparency in government spending: Missouri Governor Matt Blunt created the Missouri Accountability Portal (MAP) via executive order on July 13, 2007; South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford issued an order on August 31, 2007, to create a single searchable website for state expenditures; Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal issued Executive Order No. BJ 2008-2 in 2008 calling for increased transparency in government spending, and the Legislature followed by mandating a searchable website; and Alaska Governor Sarah Palin published the state's payment register at the start of 2008.

PROPOSAL:

Require all state agencies and departments to annually post on their websites a detailed breakdown of their general fund and federal fund expenditures, including, but not limited to, money spent on state and local administration, the implementation of programs, and the distribution of any grant and bond funds.

SUPPORT: None on file.

OPPOSITION: None on file.