

# SENATE, No. 302

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2012 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO**

**District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator Oroho**

**SYNOPSIS**

“Transparency in Government Act;” provides for establishment of State public finance website; requires certain public entities receiving State funds to establish similar website; makes an appropriation.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/14/2012)**

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1 AN ACT providing for the establishment of a State public finance  
2 website and requiring certain public entities receiving State  
3 funds to establish a similar website, supplementing chapter 18A  
4 of Title 52 of the Revised Statutes and making an appropriation.  
5

6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
7 of New Jersey:  
8

9 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the  
10 “Transparency in Government Act.”  
11

12 2. As used in this act:

13 “Chief Technology Officer” means the person appointed by and  
14 serving at the pleasure of the Governor who is responsible for the  
15 day-to-day operations of the Office of Information Technology in,  
16 but not of, the Department of the Treasury.

17 “Public Finance Transparency Committee” means the committee  
18 established pursuant to section 4 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
19 before the Legislature as this bill).

20 “Searchable website” means an Internet website that allows the  
21 general public to search and aggregate data and information  
22 identified by section 3 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
23 Legislature as this bill). A searchable website is required to offer  
24 the general public the ability to search and display data, and  
25 ascertain the total amounts of: (1) revenues and expenditures of  
26 funds established within the State treasury; (2) compensation paid  
27 to public employees of State agencies; and (3) bond debt as  
28 specified by the provisions of section 3 of P.L. , c. (C. )  
29 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), in an aggregate or  
30 summary form in a manner determined by the State Treasurer, in  
31 consultation with the Chief Technology Officer and the Public  
32 Finance Transparency Committee.

33 “State agency” or “agency” means any of the principal  
34 departments in the Executive Branch of State Government, and any  
35 division, board, bureau, office, commission, or other instrumentality  
36 within or created by such principal department; the Legislature of  
37 the State and any office, board, bureau, or commission within or  
38 created by the Legislative Branch of State Government; the  
39 Judiciary of the State and any office, board, bureau, or commission  
40 within or created by the Judicial Branch of State Government; and  
41 any independent State authority, commission, instrumentality, or  
42 agency.  
43

44 3. a. The State Treasurer, in consultation with the Chief  
45 Technology Officer, shall design, develop, and maintain a single,  
46 searchable Internet website that is accessible to the general public  
47 without charge and that includes data and information on:

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- 1 (1) annual State agency expenditures, as determined by the State  
2 Treasurer and as available within the central accounting system and  
3 State payroll system, which shall include but not be limited to:
- 4 (a) disbursements by a State agency from funds established  
5 within the State treasury;
  - 6 (b) bond debt services including, but not limited to, amounts of  
7 bond debt or interest paid and sources of funds for bond issues;
  - 8 (c) salaries and wages including, but not limited to,  
9 compensation paid to employees of State agencies;
  - 10 (d) contractual service purchases including, but not limited to,  
11 amounts paid to vendors;
  - 12 (e) commodity purchases including, but not limited to, amounts  
13 paid to vendors;
  - 14 (f) capital outlay and improvements including, but not limited  
15 to, amounts paid to vendors;
  - 16 (g) aid to local units of government including, but not limited to,  
17 amounts paid to individual units of local government for aid  
18 programs;
  - 19 (h) additional forms of assistance and benefits deemed relevant  
20 by the State Treasurer; and
  - 21 (i) the exact amount of each such expenditure and the name and  
22 address of each individual, organization, business or other entity  
23 receiving such monies.
- 24 (2) annual State revenues, as determined by the State Treasurer  
25 and as available within the central accounting system, which shall  
26 include but not be limited to:
- 27 (a) receipts and deposits by any State agency into funds  
28 established within the State treasury;
  - 29 (b) taxes including, but not limited to, compulsory contributions  
30 imposed by the State for the purpose of financing services;
  - 31 (c) agency earnings including, but not limited to, amounts  
32 collected by each agency for merchandise sold, services performed,  
33 licenses, and permits issued, or regulation;
  - 34 (d) revenue for the use of money and property including, but not  
35 limited to, amounts received for compensation for the use of State-  
36 owned money and property;
  - 37 (e) gifts, donations, and federal grants including, but not limited  
38 to, amounts received from public and private entities to aid in  
39 support of a specific function or other governmental activity;
  - 40 (f) other revenue including, but not limited to, receipts not  
41 classified elsewhere; and
  - 42 (g) non-revenue receipts including, but not limited to, all  
43 receipts that do not constitute revenue.
- 44 (3) annual State bonded indebtedness, as determined by the  
45 State Treasurer and as available within the central accounting  
46 system, which shall include but not be limited to:

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- 1 (a) amount of the total original obligation stated in terms of  
2 principal and interest;
- 3 (b) term of the obligation;
- 4 (c) source of funding for repayment of the obligation;
- 5 (d) amounts of principal and interest previously paid to reduce  
6 the obligation;
- 7 (e) remaining balance of the obligation;
- 8 (f) data and information related to refinancing of the obligation;
- 9 (g) cited statutory or constitutional authority to issue such  
10 bonds;
- 11 (h) specific names of firms or individuals serving as bond  
12 counsel; and
- 13 (i) the names of the banks assisting in the sale of bonds.
- 14 (4) any other data or information specified by the State  
15 Treasurer after consulting with and seeking the advice of the Chief  
16 Technology Officer and the Public Finance Transparency  
17 Committee.
- 18 b. (1) The public finance website shall include all data and  
19 information enumerated in subsection a. of this section for fiscal  
20 year 2013 and each fiscal year thereafter. Such data and  
21 information posted on the website may be periodically updated, but  
22 shall not be subject to removal.
- 23 (2) All data and information available in the central accounting  
24 and State payroll systems shall be made available on the public  
25 finance website as soon as practicable, but not later than 45 days  
26 after the last day of the preceding fiscal year.
- 27 (3) The State Treasurer shall develop policies and procedures, in  
28 accordance with the provisions of the "Administrative Procedure  
29 Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to make data and  
30 information available from any other source.
- 31 (4) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the State  
32 Treasurer shall not be required to provide data and information on  
33 the public finance website of the kind that is not available in the  
34 central accounting system and the State payroll system at the time  
35 of the website's initial implementation.
- 36 (5) All State agencies are directed to cooperate with the State  
37 Treasurer, the Chief Technology Officer, and the Public Finance  
38 Transparency Committee in compiling the data and information  
39 necessary to comply with the provisions of P.L. , c. (C. )  
40 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
- 41 (6) Nothing contained in P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before  
42 the Legislature as this bill) shall require the disclosure of  
43 information deemed private, personal, or confidential by State or  
44 federal law.
- 45 c. The public finance website shall include a link or otherwise  
46 provide the general public with access to each Internet website  
47 required to be maintained by a public entity in accordance with the

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1 provisions of section 5 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
2 Legislature as this bill).

3

4 4. a. There is established in the Department of the Treasury the  
5 Public Finance Transparency Committee to advise, consult, and  
6 coordinate with the State Treasurer and the Chief Technology  
7 Officer regarding the scope, content, and format of the public  
8 finance website developed to comply with the provisions of section  
9 3 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this  
10 bill).

11 b. The committee shall be comprised of nine members,  
12 including:

13 (1) the State Treasurer or the State Treasurer's designee;

14 (2) the Chief Technology Officer or the Chief Technology  
15 Officer's designee;

16 (3) the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the  
17 Department of the Treasury or the director's designee;

18 (4) two members who are commissioners, directors, or officers  
19 of a State agency, who shall be appointed by the Governor; and

20 (5) four members of the general public, two who shall be  
21 appointed by the Governor, one who shall be appointed by the  
22 President of the Senate, and one who shall be appointed by the  
23 Speaker of the General Assembly.

24 c. The committee shall organize as soon as practicable, but no  
25 later than the 30th day after the appointment of a majority of its  
26 members. The State Treasurer or the State Treasurer's designee  
27 shall serve as the chair of the committee, but the committee shall  
28 select a vice-chair from among its members and appoint a secretary  
29 who need not be a member of the committee.

30 d. Vacancies in the membership of the committee shall be  
31 filled in the same manner provided for the original appointments  
32 and shall be filled within 30 days of the occurrence thereof. Five  
33 members of the committee shall constitute a quorum and the  
34 affirmative vote of five members shall be necessary for any action  
35 taken by the committee. Any vacancy in membership shall not  
36 prohibit the quorum of the committee from exercising its duties.

37 e. The committee may meet at the call of the chair and hold  
38 hearings at the times and in the places it deems necessary and  
39 appropriate to fulfill its charge. The committee shall be entitled to  
40 call to its assistance, and avail itself of the services of, the  
41 employees of any State, county, or municipal department, board,  
42 bureau, commission, or agency as it may require and as may be  
43 available for its purposes.

44 f. The public members of the committee shall serve without  
45 compensation, but may be reimbursed for traveling and other  
46 miscellaneous expenses necessary to perform their duties, within  
47 the limit of funds made available to the committee for its purposes.

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- 1 g. It shall be the duty of the committee to:
- 2 (1) serve in an advisory capacity to the State Treasurer, who  
3 shall from time to time consult with and seek the advice of the  
4 committee on matters related to the development and expansion of  
5 the public finance website as well as opportunities to make the  
6 website more accessible to the general public;
- 7 (2) advise the State Treasurer and the Chief Technology Officer,  
8 after implementation of the initial website, on incorporating  
9 additional data and information described by P.L. , c. (C. )  
10 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) from any other source  
11 of data or information available to the State Treasurer or Chief  
12 Technology Officer, including information submitted by a State  
13 agency pursuant to paragraph (5) of subsection b. of section 3 of  
14 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill);
- 15 (3) seek the advice of and receive feedback from the general  
16 public, professional associations, State agencies, academic groups  
17 and institutions, and individuals with knowledge of and interest in  
18 areas of public information access, gateway services, add-on  
19 services, and electronic information for the general improvement of  
20 the public finance website; and
- 21 (4) issue an annual report to the Governor and, pursuant to  
22 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature  
23 regarding the progress in developing and implementing the public  
24 finance website; public input and feedback concerning the utility of  
25 the website and recommendations for its improvement; and  
26 proposed enhancements to the website regarding content, format,  
27 policies, and procedures, reports, and other matters as deemed  
28 appropriate by the State Treasurer and the Chief Technology  
29 Officer.
- 30
- 31 5. Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the contrary,  
32 any county, municipality, State or local authority, school board, or  
33 other instrumentality of the State that receives direct grants or funds  
34 from the State during any fiscal year shall, within 180 days of the  
35 date section 3 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
36 Legislature as this bill) is operative, and prior to the receipt of any  
37 additional funds in the next fiscal year, present a detailed plan to the  
38 State Treasurer for an Internet website that will be provided by the  
39 public entity and readily accessible to the general public without  
40 charge that shows in detail:
- 41 a. the total amount of expenditures, specified by category  
42 including, but not limited to, bond debt services and interest,  
43 salaries and wages paid to employees, contractual service purchases  
44 including amounts paid to vendors, commodity purchases including  
45 amounts paid to vendors, capital outlays and improvements  
46 including amounts paid to vendors, and aid paid to subunits of the  
47 entity;

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1       b. the total amount of funds received during the fiscal year and  
2 the sources thereof, specified by category including, but not limited  
3 to, revenue derived from the receipts and deposits from any State  
4 agency, taxes including compulsory tolls or fees imposed by the  
5 public entity for the purpose of financing services, the amounts  
6 received as compensation for the use of property owned or used by  
7 the public entity, and gifts, donations and federal grants and other  
8 sources of revenue not classified elsewhere; and

9       c. the total amount of annual bonded indebtedness of the entity,  
10 specified by category, including but not limited to the amount of the  
11 original obligation stated in terms of principal and interest, the  
12 terms of the obligation and the source of funding for the repayment  
13 thereof, the amounts of principal and interest previously paid to  
14 reduce the obligation and the remaining balance of the obligation,  
15 the data and information related to refinancing of the obligation, if  
16 such refinancing occurred, the statutory or constitutional authority  
17 to issue such bonds, the name of the firms or individuals serving as  
18 bond counsel, and the name of the banks assisting in the sale of  
19 bonds.

20       Once a plan has been submitted by a public entity, and reviewed  
21 and accepted by the State Treasurer, the entity shall have 90 days to  
22 implement the plan for the website and have it readily available to  
23 the general public without charge.

24       If a plan has been submitted and reviewed by the State Treasurer  
25 and the State Treasurer determines that limited changes shall be  
26 made to the plan pursuant to P.L.     , c.   (C.   ) (pending before  
27 the Legislature as this bill) or any other relevant statute, the public  
28 entity shall have 90 days from receiving notification thereof by the  
29 State Treasurer to submit a revised plan, and if the State Treasurer  
30 finds that plan acceptable, the public entity shall have 90 days to  
31 implement the plan for the website and have it readily available to  
32 the general public without charge.

33       If the State Treasurer finds that a plan submitted by a public  
34 entity is wholly unacceptable, the entity shall have 90 days from  
35 receiving notification thereof by the State Treasurer to submit a  
36 revised plan. If the State Treasurer finds subsequently that the  
37 public entity has not acted in good faith in creating a plan or  
38 revising a previously submitted plan, the State Treasurer may, at the  
39 State Treasurer's discretion, withhold further State funds until a  
40 plan is submitted that is deemed acceptable by the State Treasurer.

41       The State Treasurer shall develop a template and provide access  
42 to or the use of any software that may, at the State Treasurer's  
43 discretion, be necessary for the public entity to use on its Internet  
44 website to provide the information required by P.L.     , c.   (C.   )  
45 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), and shall make the  
46 template and the software available to the public entity once the  
47 plan of that entity is approved by the State Treasurer. Each public

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1 entity, once it is in receipt of the template and any software deemed  
2 necessary by the State Treasurer, shall be responsible for updating,  
3 on a regular basis, the required information that is to be made  
4 available to the public through the template and the software.

5  
6 6. a. The State Treasurer, the Chief Technology Officer, and  
7 the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department  
8 of Law and Public Safety shall, within 90 days of the effective date  
9 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),  
10 conduct three public hearings, one each located in the northern,  
11 central, and southern regions of the State, for purposes of receiving  
12 public input and feedback and collating information regarding the  
13 implementation of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
14 Legislature as this bill).

15 b. The State Treasurer shall provide public notice for each of  
16 the three public hearings required to be conducted in accordance  
17 with subsection a. of this section by utilizing the Internet and any  
18 other resources that may be available to the State Treasurer for  
19 purposes of providing public notice for the public hearings. The  
20 public notices for each of the three public hearings shall, at a  
21 minimum, inform the general public of the date, time, location, and  
22 purpose of the public hearing.

23  
24 7. The State Treasurer shall provide technical assistance and  
25 training to a county, municipality, State or local authority, school  
26 board, or other instrumentality of the State that is required, in  
27 accordance with section 5 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before  
28 the Legislature as this bill), to maintain an Internet website  
29 regarding best practices in: (1) presenting a detailed plan for an  
30 Internet websites to the State Treasurer; (2) obtaining and  
31 compiling financial data and information required to be made  
32 available on a public entity's Internet website; (3) designing and  
33 developing an Internet website that is readily accessible to the  
34 general public without charge; and (4) maintaining compliance with  
35 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

36  
37 8. a. In addition to the duties and responsibilities prescribed by  
38 "The Office of Information Technology Reorganization Act,"  
39 P.L.2007, c.56 (C.52:18A-224 et seq.), the Chief Technology  
40 Officer shall establish a public finance Internet website technical  
41 support unit within the Office of Information Technology allocated  
42 in, but not of, the Department of the Treasury.

43 b. The technical support unit established in accordance with  
44 subsection a of this section shall be under the immediate  
45 supervision of a manager, who shall be appointed by the Chief  
46 Technology Officer, and shall be staffed by such clerical, technical,  
47 and other professional assistants as may be designated by the Chief



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1 Technology Officer from among the personnel appointed and  
2 employed by the Office of Information Technology allocated in, but  
3 not of, the Department of the Treasury.

4 c. The manager of the technical support unit appointed in  
5 accordance with subsection b. of this section shall develop and  
6 maintain a full-time program dedicated to providing information  
7 technology support and services to a county, municipality, State or  
8 local authority, school board or other instrumentality of the State  
9 that is required, in accordance with section 5 of P.L. , c. (C. )  
10 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), to maintain an Internet  
11 website, and to performing any other duties and responsibilities that  
12 may be assigned to the unit by the Chief Technology Officer.

13

14 9. Notwithstanding the provisions of the "Administrative  
15 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) to the  
16 contrary, the State Treasurer may adopt immediately upon filing  
17 with the Office of Administrative Law such regulations as the State  
18 Treasurer deems necessary to implement the provisions of P.L. ,  
19 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), which  
20 regulations shall be effective for a period not exceeding 180 days  
21 following the effective date of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before  
22 the Legislature as this bill) and may thereafter be amended,  
23 adopted, or readopted by the State Treasurer in accordance with  
24 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).

25

26 10. a. There is appropriated to the Department of the Treasury  
27 from the General Fund such sums as may be necessary, not to  
28 exceed \$100,000, as shall be determined by the Director of the  
29 Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the  
30 Treasury, to provide resources, other than the property tax, to offset  
31 the additional direct expenditures that may be required for a county,  
32 municipality, State or local authority, school board or other  
33 instrumentality of the State to plan, implement, and maintain an  
34 Internet website that is required, in accordance with section 5 of  
35 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), to  
36 be made readily available to the general public without charge, and  
37 to otherwise effectuate the purposes of P.L. , c (C. ) (pending  
38 before the Legislature as this bill).

39 b. The State Treasurer may provide, upon application, and in  
40 accordance with any rules and regulations prescribed by the State  
41 Treasurer, a reimbursement, from such funds as shall be made  
42 available, in accordance with subsection a. of this section, to a  
43 county, municipality, State or local authority, school board, or other  
44 instrumentality of the State for the amount of any direct  
45 expenditures made by that public entity directly and exclusively in  
46 connection with the planning, implementation, and maintenance of  
47 an Internet website that is required, in accordance with section 5 of

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1 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), to  
2 be made readily available to the general public without charge.

3  
4 11. a. In fiscal year 2014 and in each fiscal year thereafter,  
5 there shall be appropriated to the Department of the Treasury from  
6 the General Fund such sums as may be necessary, not to exceed  
7 \$100,000, as shall be determined by the Director of the Division of  
8 Budget and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury, to  
9 provide resources, other than the property tax, to offset the  
10 additional direct expenditures that may be required for a county,  
11 municipality, State or local authority, school board or other  
12 instrumentality of the State to plan, implement, and maintain an  
13 Internet website that is required, in accordance with section 5 of  
14 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), to  
15 be made readily available to the general public without charge, and  
16 to otherwise effectuate the purposes of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
17 before the Legislature as this bill).

18 b. The State Treasurer may provide, upon application, and in  
19 accordance with any rules and regulations prescribed by the State  
20 Treasurer, a reimbursement, from such funds as shall be made  
21 available in accordance with subsection a. of this section, to a  
22 county, municipality, State or local authority, school board, or other  
23 instrumentality of the State for the amount of any direct  
24 expenditures made by that public entity directly and exclusively in  
25 connection with the planning, implementation, and maintenance of  
26 an Internet website that is required, in accordance with section 5 of  
27 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), to  
28 be made readily available to the general public without charge.

29  
30 12. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012; provided however,  
31 that section 3 shall remain inoperative until January 1, 2013.

32

33

34

**STATEMENT**

35

36 This bill, designated as the “Transparency in Government Act,”  
37 provides for the establishment of a State public finance Internet  
38 website, establishes a public finance transparency committee,  
39 requires certain public entities receiving State funds to establish  
40 similar Internet websites, and provides for the appropriation of State  
41 funds to provide resources to offset certain additional direct  
42 expenditures that may be required to be made by public entities to  
43 plan, implement, and maintain a public finance Internet website.

44 The bill provides that the State Treasurer, in consultation with  
45 the Chief Technology Officer of the Office of Information  
46 Technology in the Department of the Treasury, is required to  
47 design, develop, and maintain a single, searchable State Internet

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1 website that retains and displays certain data and information  
2 pertaining to the State's annual revenues, expenditures, and total  
3 bonded indebtedness. The bill specifies that the State Treasurer  
4 must design and develop the State Internet website on January 1,  
5 2013, and must maintain and operate that site, without charge for  
6 access, each year thereafter.

7 The bill specifies that the State Internet website must include  
8 data and information pertaining to the State's annual revenues,  
9 expenditures, and total bonded indebtedness for fiscal year 2013  
10 and each year thereafter, and must include data and information  
11 pertaining to the State's annual revenues, expenditures, and total  
12 bonded indebtedness not later than 45 days after the last day of the  
13 preceding fiscal year. The bill specifies that the State Treasurer is  
14 not required to provide data and information on the website of the  
15 kind that is not available in the central accounting system and the  
16 State payroll system at the time the website is implemented, and is  
17 not required to disclose information deemed private, personal, or  
18 confidential by State or federal law.

19 The bill specifies that data or information posted on the State  
20 Internet website may be periodically updated, but is not subject to  
21 removal. The bill specifies further that the State Internet website  
22 must include a link or otherwise provide the general public with a  
23 means to access the Internet websites required to be established by  
24 public entities as a result of the bill.

25 The bill provides for the establishment of the Public Finance  
26 Transparency Committee in the Department of the Treasury. The  
27 bill specifies that the committee is comprised of nine members,  
28 including the State Treasurer, the Chief Technology Officer, the  
29 Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the  
30 Department of the Treasury, two cabinet-level officers appointed by  
31 the Governor, and four public members. The bill specifies that the  
32 public members of the committee will serve without compensation,  
33 but may be reimbursed for certain necessary expenses.

34 The bill specifies that it is the duty of the committee to advise,  
35 consult, and coordinate with the State Treasurer and the Chief  
36 Technology Officer to improve and expand upon the scope, content,  
37 and format of the State Internet website. The bill specifies further  
38 that it is the duty of the committee to seek the advice of and receive  
39 feedback from the general public and certain experts with  
40 knowledge of and interest in areas of public information access,  
41 gateway services, add-on services, and electronic information for  
42 the general improvement of the State public finance Internet  
43 website, and to issue an annual report.

44 The bill requires certain other public entities, including counties,  
45 municipalities, State or local authorities, school boards and other  
46 instrumentality of the State, that receive direct grants or funds from  
47 the State during any fiscal year to, within 180 after the date the

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1 State public finance Internet website is required to be made  
2 available, and prior to the receipt of any additional funds in the next  
3 fiscal year, present a detailed plan to the State Treasurer for an  
4 Internet website that will be provided by the public entity and  
5 readily accessible to the general public without charge for access.  
6 The bill specifies that these public finance websites will be required  
7 to show in detail data and information regarding total annual  
8 expenditures, total annual funds received, and total bonded  
9 indebtedness of the public entity required to design and develop a  
10 website.

11 The bill specifies that once a detailed plan for an Internet website  
12 has been submitted by a public entity and has been reviewed and  
13 accepted by the State Treasurer, the entity will have 90 days to  
14 implement the plan for the Internet website and have it readily  
15 available to the general public without charge. The bill specifies  
16 certain actions that may be taken by the State Treasurer if a detailed  
17 plan for an Internet website that is submitted for review is in need  
18 of certain changes, and specifies certain actions that may be taken  
19 by the State Treasurer if a detailed plan for an Internet website that  
20 is submitted for review is wholly unacceptable.

21 The bill requires the State Treasurer to develop a template and to  
22 provide access to or use of any software that may be necessary for a  
23 public entity to use to retain and display any data and information  
24 required to be made publicly available. The bill specifies that once  
25 public entities are in receipt of the template and any software  
26 provided by the State Treasurer, the public entities are responsible  
27 to update information required to be made available to the public  
28 through the template and the software.

29 The bill requires the State Treasurer, the Chief Technology  
30 Officer, and the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the  
31 Department of Law and Public Safety to conduct three public  
32 hearings to receive public input and feedback and to collate  
33 information regarding the implementation of the bill. The bill  
34 specifies that the hearings must be held within 90 days of the  
35 effective date of the bill, and specifies that of the three hearings,  
36 one must be held in the northern, one must be held in the central,  
37 and one must be held in the southern regions of the State. The bill  
38 specifies further that the State Treasurer is required to provide  
39 public notice for the hearings.

40 The bill requires the State Treasurer to provide technical  
41 assistance and training to a county, municipality, State or local  
42 authority, school board, or other instrumentality of the State that is  
43 required to maintain an Internet website as a result of the bill. The  
44 bill specifies that the purpose of the technical assistance and  
45 training is to convey best practices in: presenting a detailed plan for  
46 an Internet websites to the State Treasurer; obtaining and compiling  
47 financial data and information required to be made available on a

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1 public entity's Internet website; designing and developing an  
2 Internet website that is readily accessible to the general public  
3 without charge; and otherwise maintaining compliance with the  
4 provisions of the bill.

5 The bill requires the Chief Technology Officer to establish a  
6 public finance Internet website technical support unit within the  
7 Office of Information Technology. The bill specifies that the  
8 support unit will be under the immediate supervision of a manager,  
9 and will be staffed by personnel currently appointed and employed  
10 by the Office of Information Technology. The bill specifies that the  
11 manager of the technical support unit will be required to develop  
12 and maintain a full-time program dedicated to providing  
13 information technology support and services to public entities  
14 required to maintain an Internet website, and to perform any other  
15 duties and responsibilities assigned to it by the Chief Technology  
16 Officer.

17 The bill authorizes the State Treasurer to develop rules and  
18 regulations necessary to implement the provisions of the bill. The bill  
19 specifies that the State Treasurer may make an immediate filing of  
20 regulations, effective for a limited duration.

21 The bill appropriates to the Department of the Treasury from the  
22 General Fund such sums as may be necessary, not to exceed  
23 \$100,000, as determined by the Director of the Division of Budget  
24 and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury, to provide  
25 resources, other than the property tax, to offset any additional direct  
26 expenditures that may be required for a public entity to plan,  
27 implement, and maintain an Internet website required to be made  
28 readily available to the general public without charge, and to  
29 otherwise effectuate the purposes of the bill.

30 For fiscal year 2014 and for each fiscal year thereafter, the bill  
31 annually appropriates to the Department of the Treasury from the  
32 General Fund such sums as may be necessary, not to exceed  
33 \$100,000, as determined by the Director of the Division of Budget  
34 and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury, to provide  
35 resources, other than the property tax, to offset any additional direct  
36 expenditures that may be required for a public entity to plan,  
37 implement, and maintain an Internet website required to be made  
38 readily available to the general public without charge, and to  
39 otherwise effectuate the purposes of the bill.

40 The bill provides that its provisions take effect July 1, 2012 and  
41 that section 3 of the bill, which provides for the establishment of the  
42 State public finance Internet website, will remain inoperative until  
43 January 1, 2013.