Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR	SCORC	ORIGINAL DATE LAST UPDATED	03/06/09 03/09/09	НВ	
SHORT TITLE Expenditure Transparency Act				SB	159/SCORCS/aSFC
ANAL				YST	Aubel/Patel

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropr	iation	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	NFI *		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 452/HHGACS and HM78

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Information Technology (DoIT)

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SFC Amendment

The Senate Finance Committee (SFC) amendment changes the act from the "budget transparency act" to the "Expenditure Transparency Act". The SFC amendment strikes "Budget" through out the Senate Corporation and Transportation Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 159 and inserts in lieu thereof "Expenditure" to clarify that the Department of Finance and Administration shall develop and make available to the public an easily accessible, searchable database that displays the state's operating expenditures that includes all revenues of state and federal money available for expenditure in the fiscal year.

Synopsis of Original Bill

The Senate Corporations and Transportation Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 159 would enact the Budget Transparency Act, requiring the creation of a searchable database for public access of state budget information.

^{*} Senate Bill 159 does not contain general fund appropriation (see fiscal implications).

Senate Bill 159/SCORCS/aSFC - Page 2

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

According to DoIT depending on the required depth of the data and intent of the Act, the fiscal impact to that agency will vary from as low as \$25 thousand to as high as \$1 million in recurring operation support and maintenance costs per year. DoIT also estimates implementation cost ranging from \$1 million to \$3 million. As written, execution of the Act relies exclusively on existing DoIT and DFA resources without additional appropriations.

DFA has suggested that a \$50 thousand appropriation from the general fund would enable the agency to contract for a study to determine what program requirements, software applications and hardware considerations are necessary to accomplish this project and the cost to implement it. The study would provide the Legislature and the executive with a rational and detailed project description, which could be assessed as part of the IT plan in the 2010 Legislative Session.

According to various program evaluation reports of the Statewide Human Resource, Accounting, and Management Reporting (SHARE) system published by the LFC, total amount available for the SHARE project is \$38.3 million and at the end of FY08 \$31.8 million has been expended. One of the benefits of implementing the SHARE system was to provide an easy access to the non-confidential financial data. Hence as a part of the initial procurement, New Mexico purchased the data warehouse which now requires configuration and equipment to house the extracted data. During the 2008 legislative session \$500 thousand was appropriated from the computer system enhancement fund balances for data warehouse but that appropriation was vetoed by the Governor.

The following are anticipated 2009 legislative session Recommendations for the SHARE project:

- o Reappropriation of \$935 thousand for incremental license fees and critical needs (2008 GAA Section 5)
- o Reappropriation of \$240 thousand for treasury module configuration (2008 GAA Section 7 part of the \$1.8 million appropriation)
- Department of Transportation paying for performance tuning and licensing (\$544 thousand)
- o Capital recommendation \$1.7 million for failover and disaster recovery
- o Extension of the 2004 severance tax bond (balance \$479 thousand)
- o General Appropriation Act includes \$1.3 million for the SHARE upgrades and hardware purchases as a part of SHARE technical staff consolidation.

Other States Using PeopleSoft Software with Data Warehouses that Allow Access to State Agency Expenditure Information:

- Missouri (www.mapyourtaxes.mo.gov)
 - o Expenditures by agency, category, contract or vendor
- > Oklahoma (www.openbooks.ok.gov)
 - o Search financial data by agency or function of government
- ➤ Ohio (www.oaks.ohio.gov)
 - o Requires username and password to run available reports from the warehouse
- > Texas (www.windows.state.tx.us)
 - Expenditures by state agency, vendor, category; expenditures by agency and funding source, purchasing code

Senate Bill 159/SCORCS/aSFC - Page 3

- Georgia
 - o Salaries and Travel Reimbursements
 - o Professional Services Expenditures
 - o Financial Reports
 - o Program Reviews

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the Americans for Tax Reform Center for Fiscal Accountability, the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2008 has prompted governors, state constitutional officers, legislators, think tanks, and taxpayer groups to launch their own efforts to increase transparency in government spending by creating single searchable online databases for government expenditures. This bill follows in this same vein.

To achieve this objective of greater transparency through a searchable database, DoIT points out that the bill requires the agencies to use existing resources to implement the Act. Constructing an outward facing database and populating the data will require technical expertise, enterprise application support, data center hardware and software resources, and staff to ensure the data is properly loaded in the database.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DoIT notes that the department has a statutory framework (Laws 2007, Chapter 290, Section 6, Subsection C, Paragraph 12) that assures Information Technology (IT) requests are thoroughly evaluated and ranked with other IT requests within available funding.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION

SB 159 originally duplicated HB 452, which is now HB 452/HHGACS and conflicts with HM78 which recommends a study before implementation.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The public can now access Legislation through the NM Legislative website in various searchable formats. The website also has a search feature. URL: http://www.nmlegis.gov

The Secretary of State's website also provides public access to all signed and chaptered bills (Law) including appropriations. URL: http://www.sos.state.nm.us/

Further more, public entities are subject to the Freedom of Information Act and information is available through that avenue.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The public will continue to access State of New Mexico appropriations through the web using other alternatives.

MA/mc:mt