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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/28/10

SPONSOR Cote LAST UPDATED _____ HB 141

SHORT TITLE Land Commissioner Financial Info Website SB _____

ANALYST Escudero

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY10	FY11	FY12	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$50.0	\$10.0	\$60.0	\$10.0/year Recurring	Land Maintenance Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates Senate Bill 195
Relates to HB 42

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

State Land Office (SLO)
Department of Information Technology (DoIT)
Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 141 mandates that the Commissioner of Public Lands (State Land Office) develop, operate, and maintain a free, user-friendly, accessible website that includes the agency's operating budget, revenues by source, oil and gas lease sale notices and results, all details of proposed and completed leases, land sales, and land exchanges by July 1, 2011.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

State Land Office indicated as follows:

There is no appropriation in HB141 or HB42, which enacts the Transparency in Government Act. A cost comparative of 10 state spending-transparency websites indicates that initiating such a site could cost as much as \$300,000 (Washington) or a little as \$25,000 (Alaska). Based on examples of existing spending-transparency websites, the Land Office estimates that designing, operating, and maintaining a new portal would cost \$50,000.

As stated by Department of Information Technology, there are no fiscal implications for the Department of Information Technology.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

State Land Office indicated as follows:

The State Land Office's existing website contains most of the information HB 141 is requesting, with the exception of exempt salaries, professional service contracts, land sale contracts and leases - which are all public record and can be obtained through IPRA.

Further, the information required of the Land Office in HB141 would be included on any statewide spending-transparency website such as proposed in HB 42, therefore HB141 is redundant.

Lastly, the project start date and completion date conflict. The sitting land commissioner's term expires December 31, 2010. House Bill 141 mandates a start date of October 1, 2010, one month before the General Election when a new land commissioner will be elected. The website launch date is July 1, 2011, half-way through the new land commissioner's first year.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

As stated by the Land Office, it would most likely contract initially with a web designer and would require close coordination and cooperation from DoIT and DFA to efficiently gain access to Land Office financial data managed in SHARE.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HB42 and SB195 which enact the Transparency in Government Act and Sunshine Portal respectively duplicate some requirements listed in HB 141.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The State Land Office submits that additional security measures, license costs and associated recurring maintenance fees are expected to be incurred by the Land Office to publically enable access into existing internally managed information systems infrastructure; as one example the document imaging systems.

The Department of Information Technology notes that coordination and synchronization between development efforts should be carefully planned so as not to duplicate efforts and ensure interoperable data exchange if necessary.

ALTERNATIVES

As stated by State Land Office, comply with HB42.

As stated by Department of Information Technology As an alternative, the state Sunshine Portal (SB195) and Transparency in Government Act will in effect generate similar information on State Land Office revenues and expenditures.