



TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Lynnisse Roehrich-Patrick
Executive Director

DATE: 24 October 2013

SUBJECT: State and Local Government Transparency—Final Report for Approval

The attached report is submitted for your approval. It was prepared in response to two bills concerning government transparency that were referred to the Commission for study by the 107th General Assembly.

Senate Bill 2831 (Ketron) [House Bill 3327 (Carr)] known as the Taxpayer Transparency Act, was referred by the Senate Finance, Ways, and Means Committee. The bill would have required the state Department of Finance and Administration to create and maintain a searchable budget database website detailing where, for what purpose, and what results are achieved for all taxpayer investments in state government.

House Bill 3328 (Carr) [Senate Bill 2832 (Ketron)] known as the Local Government Transparency Act, was referred by the House State and Local Government Subcommittee. This bill would have required each county, city, and school system to have a single, searchable expenditure and revenue database accessible from its main website.

Both bills require such features as searchability, historical data, and “checkbook level” information about expenditures and contracts.

In response to member feedback, the final version of the report incorporates improvements to the draft reviewed at the August 2013 Commission meeting:

- Usage data for the state’s Open Government website, and
- Information about local government costs and suggestions for reducing them.

The report also recognizes the Comptroller’s Transparency and Accountability for Governments website as a third transparency site hosted by state government.