

LEGISLATIVE BILL 429

Approved by the Governor June 4, 2013

Introduced by Crawford, 45; Avery, 28; Mello, 5; Pirsch, 4.

FOR AN ACT relating to the Taxpayer Transparency Act; to amend sections 84-602 and 84-602.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012; to require disclosure of state contracts as prescribed; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 84-602, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

84-602 It shall be the duty of the State Treasurer:

- (1) To receive and keep all money of the state not expressly required to be received and kept by some other person;
- (2) To disburse the public money upon warrants drawn upon the state treasury according to law and not otherwise;
- (3) To keep a just, true, and comprehensive account of all money received and disbursed;
- (4) To keep a just account with each fund, and each head of appropriation made by law, and the warrants drawn against them;
- (5) To render a full statement to the Department of Administrative Services of all money received by him or her from whatever source, and if on account of revenue, for what year; of all penalties and interest on delinquent taxes reported or accounted for to him or her, and of all disbursements of public funds; with a list, in numerical order, of all warrants redeemed, the name of the payee, amount, interest, and total amount allowed thereon, and with the amount of the balance of the several funds unexpended; which statement shall be made on the first day of December, March, June, and September, and more often if required;
- (6) To report electronically to the Legislature as soon as practicable, but within ten days after the commencement of each regular session, a detailed statement of the condition of the treasury and its operations for the preceding fiscal year;
- (7) To give information electronically to the Legislature, whenever required, upon any subject connected with the treasury or touching any duty of his or her office;
- (8) To account for, and pay over, all money received by him or her as such treasurer, to his or her successor in office, and deliver all books, vouchers, and effects of office to him or her; and such successor shall receipt therefor. In accounting for and paying over such money the treasurer shall not be held liable on account of any loss occasioned by any investment, when such investment shall have been made pursuant to the direction of the state investment officer; and
- (9) To develop and maintain a single, searchable web site with information on state tax receipts, and expenditures, and contracts which is accessible by the public at no cost to access as provided in section 84-602.02. The web site shall be hosted on a server owned and operated by the State of Nebraska or approved by the Chief Information Officer. The naming convention for the web site shall identify the web site as a state government web site. The web site shall not include the treasurer's name, the treasurer's image, the treasurer's seal, or a welcome message.

Sec. 2. Section 84-602.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

84-602.02 (1)(a) Not later than January 1, 2010, the web site established, developed, and maintained by the State Treasurer pursuant to subdivision (9) of section 84-602 shall provide such information as will document the sources of all tax receipts and the expenditure of state funds by all agencies, boards, commissions, and departments of the state.

(b) The State Treasurer shall, in appropriate detail, cause to be published on the web site:

- (i) The identity, principal location, and amount of funds received or expended by the State of Nebraska and all of its agencies, boards, commissions, and departments;
- (ii) The funding or expending agency, board, commission, or department;
- (iii) The budget program source;
- (iv) The amount, date, purpose, and recipient of all disbursed funds; and
- (v) Such other relevant information as will further the intent of

enhancing the transparency of state government financial operations to its citizens and taxpayers. The web site shall include data for fiscal year 2008-09 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(2) Beginning July 1, 2010, the data shall be available on the web site no later than thirty days after the end of the preceding fiscal year.

(3) (a) Beginning July 1, 2014, the web site described in this section shall include a link to the web site of the Department of Administrative Services. The department's web site shall contain:

(i) A data base that includes a copy of each active contract that is a basis for an expenditure of state funds, including any amendment to such contract and any document incorporated by reference in such contract. For purposes of this subdivision, amendment means an agreement to modify a contract which has been reduced to writing and signed by each party to the contract, an agreement to extend the duration of a contract, or an agreement to renew a contract. The data base shall be accessible by the public and searchable by vendor, by agency, board, commission, or department, and by dollar amount. All agencies, boards, commissions, and departments of the state shall provide to the Department of Administrative Services, in electronic form, copies of such contracts for inclusion in the data base beginning with contracts that are active on and after January 1, 2014; and

(ii) A data base that includes copies of all expired contracts which were previously included in the data base described in subdivision (3) (a) (i) of this section. The data base required under this subdivision shall be accessible by the public and searchable by vendor, by agency, board, commission, or department, and by dollar amount.

(b) The following shall be redacted or withheld from any contract before such contract is included in a data base pursuant to subdivision (3) (a) of this section:

(i) The social security number or federal tax identification number of any individual or business;

(ii) Protected health information as such term is defined under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, as such act existed on January 1, 2013;

(iii) Any information which may be withheld from the public under section 84-712.05; or

(iv) Any information that is confidential under state or federal law, rule, or regulation.

(c) The following contracts shall be exempt from the requirements of subdivision (3) (a) of this section:

(i) Contracts entered into by the Department of Health and Human Services that are letters of agreement for the purpose of providing specific services to a specifically named individual and his or her family;

(ii) Contracts entered into by the University of Nebraska or any of the Nebraska state colleges for the purpose of providing specific services or financial assistance to a specifically named individual and his or her family;

(iii) Contracts entered into by the Department of Veterans' Affairs under section 80-401 or 80-403 for the purpose of providing aid to a specifically named veteran and his or her family;

(iv) Contracts entered into by the State Energy Office for the purpose of providing financing from the Dollar and Energy Saving Loan program; and

(v) Contracts of employment for employees of any agency, board, commission, or department of the state. The exemption provided in this subdivision shall not apply to contracts entered into by any agency, board, commission, or department of the state to obtain the services of an independent contractor.

(d) No agency, board, commission, or department of the state shall structure a contract to avoid any of the requirements of subdivision (3) (a) of this section.

(e) The Department of Administrative Services shall adopt policies and procedures regarding the creation and maintenance of the data bases required under this section and the process by which agencies, boards, commissions, and departments of the state provide copies of the contracts required under this section.

(4) All agencies, boards, commissions, and departments of the state shall provide to the State Treasurer, at such times and in such form as designated by the State Treasurer, such information as is necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Taxpayer Transparency Act.

(5) Nothing in this ~~subsection~~ section requires the disclosure of information which is considered confidential under state or federal law or is not a public record under section 84-712.05.

~~(3) (a)~~ (6) (a) For purposes of this section, expenditure of state

funds means all expenditures of appropriated or nonappropriated funds by an agency, board, commission, or department of the state from the state treasury in forms including, but not limited to:

- (i) Grants;
- (ii) Contracts;
- (iii) Subcontracts;
- (iv) State aid to political subdivisions; and

(v) Tax refunds or credits that may be disclosed pursuant to the Nebraska Advantage Act, the Nebraska Advantage Microenterprise Tax Credit Act, the Nebraska Advantage Research and Development Act, or the Nebraska Advantage Rural Development Act.

(b) Expenditure of state funds does not include the transfer of funds between two agencies, boards, commissions, or departments of the state or payments of state or federal assistance to an individual.

Sec. 3. Original sections 84-602 and 84-602.02, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012, are repealed.