

SENATE, No. 1385

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

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.



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:

- 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:
- 47 (a) amount of the total original obligation stated in terms of
- 48 principal and interest;

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

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

8 b. The committee shall be comprised of nine members,
9 including:

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

11 (2) the Chief Technology Officer or the Chief Technology
12 Officer's designee;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

45 g. It shall be the duty of the committee to:

46 (1) serve in an advisory capacity to the State Treasurer, who
47 shall from time to time consult with and seek the advice of the
48 committee on matters related to the development and expansion of

1 the public finance website as well as opportunities to make the
2 website more accessible to the general public;

3 (2) advise the State Treasurer and the Chief Technology Officer,
4 after implementation of the initial website, on incorporating
5 additional data and information described by P.L. , c. (C.)
6 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) from any other source
7 of data or information available to the State Treasurer or Chief
8 Technology Officer, including information submitted by a State
9 agency pursuant to paragraph (5) of subsection b. of section 3 of
10 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill);

11 (3) seek the advice of and receive feedback from the general
12 public, professional associations, State agencies, academic groups
13 and institutions, and individuals with knowledge of and interest in
14 areas of public information access, gateway services, add-on
15 services, and electronic information for the general improvement of
16 the public finance website; and

17 (4) issue an annual report to the Governor and, pursuant to
18 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature
19 regarding the progress in developing and implementing the public
20 finance website; public input and feedback concerning the utility of
21 the website and recommendations for its improvement; and
22 proposed enhancements to the website regarding content, format,
23 policies, and procedures, reports, and other matters as deemed
24 appropriate by the State Treasurer and the Chief Technology
25 Officer.

26

27 5. Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the contrary,
28 any county, municipality, State or local authority, school board, or
29 other instrumentality of the State that receives direct grants or funds
30 from the State during any fiscal year shall, within 180 days of the
31 date section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
32 Legislature as this bill) is operative, and prior to the receipt of any
33 additional funds in the next fiscal year, present a detailed plan to the
34 State Treasurer for an Internet website that will be provided by the
35 public entity and readily accessible to the general public without
36 charge that shows in detail:

37 a. the total amount of expenditures, specified by category
38 including, but not limited to, bond debt services and interest,
39 salaries and wages paid to employees, contractual service purchases
40 including amounts paid to vendors, commodity purchases including
41 amounts paid to vendors, capital outlays and improvements
42 including amounts paid to vendors, and aid paid to subunits of the
43 entity;

44 b. the total amount of funds received during the fiscal year and
45 the sources thereof, specified by category including, but not limited
46 to, revenue derived from the receipts and deposits from any State
47 agency, taxes including compulsory tolls or fees imposed by the
48 public entity for the purpose of financing services, the amounts

1 received as compensation for the use of property owned or used by
2 the public entity, and gifts, donations and federal grants and other
3 sources of revenue not classified elsewhere; and

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

15 Once a plan has been submitted by a public entity, and reviewed
16 and accepted by the State Treasurer, the entity shall have 90 days to
17 implement the plan for the website and have it readily available to
18 the general public without charge.

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

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

36 The State Treasurer shall develop a template and provide access
37 to or the use of any software that may, at the State Treasurer's
38 discretion, be necessary for the public entity to use on its Internet
39 website to provide the information required by P.L. , c. (C.)
40 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), and shall make the
41 template and the software available to the public entity once the
42 plan of that entity is approved by the State Treasurer. Each public
43 entity, once it is in receipt of the template and any software deemed
44 necessary by the State Treasurer, shall be responsible for updating,
45 on a regular basis, the required information that is to be made
46 available to the public through the template and the software.

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

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

18
19 7. The State Treasurer shall provide technical assistance and
20 training to a county, municipality, State or local authority, school
21 board, or other instrumentality of the State that is required, in
22 accordance with section 5 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
23 the Legislature as this bill), to maintain an Internet website
24 regarding best practices in: (1) presenting a detailed plan for an
25 Internet websites to the State Treasurer; (2) obtaining and
26 compiling financial data and information required to be made
27 available on a public entity's Internet website; (3) designing and
28 developing an Internet website that is readily accessible to the
29 general public without charge; and (4) maintaining compliance with
30 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

31
32 8. a. In addition to the duties and responsibilities prescribed by
33 "The Office of Information Technology Reorganization Act,"
34 P.L.2007, c.56 (C.52:18A-224 et seq.), the Chief Technology
35 Officer shall establish a public finance Internet website technical
36 support unit within the Office of Information Technology allocated
37 in, but not of, the Department of the Treasury.

38 b. The technical support unit established in accordance with
39 subsection a of this section shall be under the immediate
40 supervision of a manager, who shall be appointed by the Chief
41 Technology Officer, and shall be staffed by such clerical, technical,
42 and other professional assistants as may be designated by the Chief
43 Technology Officer from among the personnel appointed and
44 employed by the Office of Information Technology allocated in, but
45 not of, the Department of the Treasury.

46 c. The manager of the technical support unit appointed in
47 accordance with subsection b. of this section shall develop and
48 maintain a full-time program dedicated to providing information

1 technology support and services to a county, municipality, State or
2 local authority, school board or other instrumentality of the State
3 that is required, in accordance with section 5 of P.L. , c. (C.)
4 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), to maintain an Internet
5 website, and to performing any other duties and responsibilities that
6 may be assigned to the unit by the Chief Technology Officer.

7
8 9. Notwithstanding the provisions of the "Administrative
9 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) to the
10 contrary, the State Treasurer may adopt immediately upon filing
11 with the Office of Administrative Law such regulations as the State
12 Treasurer deems necessary to implement the provisions of P.L. ,
13 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), which
14 regulations shall be effective for a period not exceeding 180 days
15 following the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
16 the Legislature as this bill) and may thereafter be amended,
17 adopted, or readopted by the State Treasurer in accordance with
18 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).

19
20 10. a. There is appropriated to the Department of the Treasury
21 from the General Fund such sums as may be necessary, not to
22 exceed \$100,000, as shall be determined by the Director of the
23 Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the
24 Treasury, to provide resources, other than the property tax, to offset
25 the additional direct expenditures that may be required for a county,
26 municipality, State or local authority, school board or other
27 instrumentality of the State to plan, implement, and maintain an
28 Internet website that is required, in accordance with section 5 of
29 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), to
30 be made readily available to the general public without charge, and
31 to otherwise effectuate the purposes of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
32 before the Legislature as this bill).

33 b. The State Treasurer may provide, upon application, and in
34 accordance with any rules and regulations prescribed by the State
35 Treasurer, a reimbursement, from such funds as shall be made
36 available, in accordance with subsection a. of this section, to a
37 county, municipality, State or local authority, school board, or other
38 instrumentality of the State for the amount of any direct
39 expenditures made by that public entity directly and exclusively in
40 connection with the planning, implementation, and maintenance of
41 an Internet website that is required, in accordance with section 5 of
42 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), to
43 be made readily available to the general public without charge.

44
45 11. a. In fiscal year 2014 and in each fiscal year thereafter,
46 there shall be appropriated to the Department of the Treasury from
47 the General Fund such sums as may be necessary, not to exceed
48 \$100,000, as shall be determined by the Director of the Division of

1 Budget and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury, to
2 provide resources, other than the property tax, to offset the
3 additional direct expenditures that may be required for a county,
4 municipality, State or local authority, school board or other
5 instrumentality of the State to plan, implement, and maintain an
6 Internet website that is required, in accordance with section 5 of
7 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), to
8 be made readily available to the general public without charge, and
9 to otherwise effectuate the purposes of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
10 before the Legislature as this bill).

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

22
23 12. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012; provided however,
24 that section 3 shall remain inoperative until January 1, 2013.

25
26

27 STATEMENT

28

29 This bill, designated as the “Transparency in Government Act,”
30 provides for the establishment of a State public finance Internet
31 website, establishes a public finance transparency committee,
32 requires certain public entities receiving State funds to establish
33 similar Internet websites, and provides for the appropriation of State
34 funds to provide resources to offset certain additional direct
35 expenditures that may be required to be made by public entities to
36 plan, implement, and maintain a public finance Internet website.

37 The bill provides that the State Treasurer, in consultation with
38 the Chief Technology Officer of the Office of Information
39 Technology in the Department of the Treasury, is required to
40 design, develop, and maintain a single, searchable State Internet
41 website that retains and displays certain data and information
42 pertaining to the State’s annual revenues, expenditures, and total
43 bonded indebtedness. The bill specifies that the State Treasurer
44 must design and develop the State Internet website on January 1,
45 2013, and must maintain and operate that site, without charge for
46 access, each year thereafter.

47 The bill specifies that the State Internet website must include
48 data and information pertaining to the State’s annual revenues,

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

11 The bill specifies that data or information posted on the State
12 Internet website may be periodically updated, but is not subject to
13 removal. The bill specifies further that the State Internet website
14 must include a link or otherwise provide the general public with a
15 means to access the Internet websites required to be established by
16 public entities as a result of the bill.

17 The bill provides for the establishment of the Public Finance
18 Transparency Committee in the Department of the Treasury. The
19 bill specifies that the committee is comprised of nine members,
20 including the State Treasurer, the Chief Technology Officer, the
21 Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the
22 Department of the Treasury, two cabinet-level officers appointed by
23 the Governor, and four public members. The bill specifies that the
24 public members of the committee will serve without compensation,
25 but may be reimbursed for certain necessary expenses.

26 The bill specifies that it is the duty of the committee to advise,
27 consult, and coordinate with the State Treasurer and the Chief
28 Technology Officer to improve and expand upon the scope, content,
29 and format of the State Internet website. The bill specifies further
30 that it is the duty of the committee to seek the advice of and receive
31 feedback from the general public and certain experts with
32 knowledge of and interest in areas of public information access,
33 gateway services, add-on services, and electronic information for
34 the general improvement of the State public finance Internet
35 website, and to issue an annual report.

36 The bill requires certain other public entities, including counties,
37 municipalities, State or local authorities, school boards and other
38 instrumentality of the State, that receive direct grants or funds from
39 the State during any fiscal year to, within 180 after the date the
40 State public finance Internet website is required to be made
41 available, and prior to the receipt of any additional funds in the next
42 fiscal year, present a detailed plan to the State Treasurer for an
43 Internet website that will be provided by the public entity and
44 readily accessible to the general public without charge for access.
45 The bill specifies that these public finance websites will be required
46 to show in detail data and information regarding total annual
47 expenditures, total annual funds received, and total bonded

1 indebtedness of the public entity required to design and develop a
2 website.

3 The bill specifies that once a detailed plan for an Internet website
4 has been submitted by a public entity and has been reviewed and
5 accepted by the State Treasurer, the entity will have 90 days to
6 implement the plan for the Internet website and have it readily
7 available to the general public without charge. The bill specifies
8 certain actions that may be taken by the State Treasurer if a detailed
9 plan for an Internet website that is submitted for review is in need
10 of certain changes, and specifies certain actions that may be taken
11 by the State Treasurer if a detailed plan for an Internet website that
12 is submitted for review is wholly unacceptable.

13 The bill requires the State Treasurer to develop a template and to
14 provide access to or use of any software that may be necessary for a
15 public entity to use to retain and display any data and information
16 required to be made publicly available. The bill specifies that once
17 public entities are in receipt of the template and any software
18 provided by the State Treasurer, the public entities are responsible
19 to update information required to be made available to the public
20 through the template and the software.

21 The bill requires the State Treasurer, the Chief Technology
22 Officer, and the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the
23 Department of Law and Public Safety to conduct three public
24 hearings to receive public input and feedback and to collate
25 information regarding the implementation of the bill. The bill
26 specifies that the hearings must be held within 90 days of the
27 effective date of the bill, and specifies that of the three hearings,
28 one must be held in the northern, one must be held in the central,
29 and one must be held in the southern regions of the State. The bill
30 specifies further that the State Treasurer is required to provide
31 public notice for the hearings.

32 The bill requires the State Treasurer to provide technical
33 assistance and training to a county, municipality, State or local
34 authority, school board, or other instrumentality of the State that is
35 required to maintain an Internet website as a result of the bill. The
36 bill specifies that the purpose of the technical assistance and
37 training is to convey best practices in: presenting a detailed plan for
38 an Internet websites to the State Treasurer; obtaining and compiling
39 financial data and information required to be made available on a
40 public entity's Internet website; designing and developing an
41 Internet website that is readily accessible to the general public
42 without charge; and otherwise maintaining compliance with the
43 provisions of the bill.

44 The bill requires the Chief Technology Officer to establish a
45 public finance Internet website technical support unit within the
46 Office of Information Technology. The bill specifies that the
47 support unit will be under the immediate supervision of a manager,
48 and will be staffed by personnel currently appointed and employed

1 by the Office of Information Technology. The bill specifies that the
2 manager of the technical support unit will be required to develop
3 and maintain a full-time program dedicated to providing
4 information technology support and services to public entities
5 required to maintain an Internet website, and to perform any other
6 duties and responsibilities assigned to it by the Chief Technology
7 Officer.

8 The bill authorizes the State Treasurer to develop rules and
9 regulations necessary to implement the provisions of the bill. The bill
10 specifies that the State Treasurer may make an immediate filing of
11 regulations, effective for a limited duration.

12 The bill appropriates to the Department of the Treasury from the
13 General Fund such sums as may be necessary, not to exceed
14 \$100,000, as determined by the Director of the Division of Budget
15 and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury, to provide
16 resources, other than the property tax, to offset any additional direct
17 expenditures that may be required for a public entity to plan,
18 implement, and maintain an Internet website required to be made
19 readily available to the general public without charge, and to
20 otherwise effectuate the purposes of the bill.

21 For fiscal year 2014 and for each fiscal year thereafter, the bill
22 annually appropriates to the Department of the Treasury from the
23 General Fund such sums as may be necessary, not to exceed
24 \$100,000, as determined by the Director of the Division of Budget
25 and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury, to provide
26 resources, other than the property tax, to offset any additional direct
27 expenditures that may be required for a public entity to plan,
28 implement, and maintain an Internet website required to be made
29 readily available to the general public without charge, and to
30 otherwise effectuate the purposes of the bill.

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