



STATE CONTROLLER'S BULLETIN

Terry Brann
State Controller

H. Sawin Millett, Jr. Commissioner
Administrative & Financial Services

Bulletin #FY12-04

SUBJECT: Confidential Payment Data

DATE: December 12, 2011

TO: All Departments and Agencies

FROM: Terry Brann

In a letter to the Commissioner of DAFS the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee asked the Commissioner "to develop and maintain a single, searchable, publicly accessible website that contains information on State revenues, expenditures and bond proceeds." This letter was a compromise to LD 181, "An Act To Promote Fiscal Transparency in State Government". Our Department testified in support of LD 181 because we believe that transparency of revenues and expenditures should be a service that all governments provide to their taxpayers.

We have identified similar websites in other states that were highly rated by U.S. Public Interest Research Group and will model our website after those. Our intent is to expand the original request to include data regarding employee's salaries and benefit costs.

In order for us to implement a transparency website, we will need your assistance in identifying any payees or other information you include in your payments processed through the accounting system that are considered confidential under federal or state law. Please report back to me the nature of the data and the relevant regulation or statute that specifies the confidentiality of your information. We will work with your finance or program staff to identify the particular coding used in the payments so that we can prevent the disclosure of the confidential data. As part of our normal process we will automatically exclude social security numbers or employee home addresses.

Enclosed is a confirmation memo we would like to receive back from each agency either identifying the type of data that is confidential with their related regulations or stating that your agency has no confidential information in the central accounting or payroll systems. This memo is only an example and we will accept your information in other formats.

We would like to receive your reply by January 15, 2012.

Thank you for your assistance and feel free to contact me or Doug Cotnoir if you have any questions.