

By: Paxton

H.B. No. 1039

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of county databases containing information on county expenditures.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 112, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 112.011 to read as follows:

Sec. 112.011. SEARCHABLE COUNTY EXPENDITURE DATABASE. (a) This section applies to a county with a population of 20,000 or more.

(b) The commissioners court of a county shall establish and post on the Internet a database of county expenditures that is electronically searchable by the public except as provided by Subsection (d). The database must include:

(1) the amount, date, payor, and payee of expenditures; and

(2) a listing of county expenditures by:

(A) object of expense with links to the warrant or check register level; and

(B) to the extent maintained by county accounting systems in a reportable format, class and item levels.

(c) To the extent possible, the county shall present information in the database established under this section in a manner that is searchable and intuitive to users. The county shall enhance and organize the presentation of the information through

1 the use of graphical representations, such as pie charts, as the
2 county considers appropriate. At a minimum, the database must
3 allow users to:

4 (1) search and aggregate county funding by any element
5 of the information;

6 (2) ascertain through a single search the total amount
7 of county funding awarded to a person by the county; and

8 (3) download information yielded by a search of the
9 database.

10 (d) The county may not allow public access under this
11 section to a payee's address, except that the county may allow
12 public access under this section to information identifying the
13 county in which the payee is located. The county may not allow
14 public access under this section to information that is identified
15 by the county as excepted from required disclosure under Chapter
16 552, Government Code, or as confidential.

17 (e) The county may not charge a fee to the public to access
18 the database.

19 SECTION 2. Section 112.011, Local Government Code, as added
20 by this Act, applies only to expenditures made on or after the
21 effective date of this Act.

22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.