

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**

**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 81ST LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**April 15, 2009**

**TO:** Honorable Garnet Coleman, Chair, House Committee on County Affairs

**FROM:** John S. O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB2743** by Paxton (Relating to the availability of certain county financial information on certain counties' Internet websites.), **As Introduced**

**No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.**

The bill would amend the Local Government Code to require the commissioners court in a county with a population of 50,000 or more to maintain the transaction register for the county's checking account in a searchable electronic spreadsheet format in which the register would be readily available for viewing, downloading, and data sharing with any interested person. The bill specifies what should and what should not be included in the posting and provides required dates for when each type of information is required to be added.

The county commissioners court would be authorized to consult with the Comptroller of Public Accounts in developing an electronic checking account transaction register.

**Local Government Impact**

The fiscal impact would vary by county depending on existing electronic capabilities and systems that are in place.

Based on the 2000 U.S. Census, there are 54 counties that have a population of 50,000 or more. Although a number of those counties was contacted, only the two largest counties, Dallas and Harris, submitted estimates of the fiscal impact to the county. Dallas County estimates the county would incur costs for 0.5 FTE and 120 hours of programming in fiscal year 2010, followed by 20 hours per month of ongoing maintenance of the information in subsequent fiscal years, but did not list the dollar amount for those costs. Harris County reports that the county treasurer already maintains an electronic checking account on the county's website; therefore, the county would experience no fiscal impact.

**Source Agencies:** 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts

**LBB Staff:** JOB, DB