
SB 180

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

Section 1

Names the act “the Alaska Online Checkbook Act.”

Section 2

Adopts legislative findings and intent:

Subsection (a) establishes that this bill is intended to allow people identify and discover state revenue and expenditures.

Subsection (b) requires that this act be interpreted in favor of disclosure and transparency.

Subsection (c) finds that state revenue and expenditures must be accounted for and easily accessible to the public in order to maintain a fair and open government.

Subsection (d) adopts intent that the state should strive to create a user-friendly website that gives the public access to the state’s financial information in a centralized location.

Section 3

Requires that the Department of Administration to make the financial transactions of the state and the annual audit available electronically for use in the public finance internet website.

Section 4

Creates a new AS 37.05.215.

AS 37.05.215 (a) – Requires the Department of Administration to develop, operate, and maintain a searchable, free to the public, website that provides financial information available from the central accounting system or the annual financial report.

AS 37.05.215 (a) (1)-(3) – Requires the following information and transactions to be posted on the online check book website and monthly state income including:

- Receipts or deposits by a state agency into a fund or account established within the state treasury.
- Proceeds from taxes received, categorized by source type, including compulsory contributions imposed by the state for the purpose of financing services.
- Agency earnings including amounts collected for sales or services, licenses or permits issued, or otherwise received by an agency.
- Revenue received for the use of state money or property including interest and lease payments gifts, donations and federal receipts and other revenue.

Expenditures including:

- The names and locations of any persons to whom payment was made.
- The amounts of the expenditures disbursed.
- The type of transaction, by account code, including the purpose of the expenditure.
- Other information specified by the department.

The balance of the following state accounts:

- Statutory Budget Reserve.
- Constitutional Budget Reserve.
- Permanent Fund Earnings Reserve Account.

AS 37.05.215 (a) (4)-(7) – Requires the following information be posted on the online check book website and updated monthly:

The amount deposited into the Permanent Fund from all mineral lease rentals, royalties, royalty sale proceeds, federal mineral revenue sharing payments, and bonuses received by the state.

State revenue and expenditures, summarized by:

General fund revenue sources categorized by function, department, and account.

Total general fund income compared to expenditures.

Total assets compared to liabilities at the end of the fiscal year.

For the preceding 10 years, by fiscal year the following:

- The number of state employees by department.
- The number of independent contractors engaged by the state by department.
- The total long-term debt owed by the state.

- Total general fund expenditures.
- All general fund payroll by department.

AS 37.05.215 (b) – Describes the reporting requirements for the previous subsection.

AS 37.05.215 (c)(1) – Requires that the website have reference materials to assist the public in understanding the financial provided on the website.

AS 37.05.215 (c)(2) – Requires the website to have a feature that allows users to search for information on the website by keyword and recipient.

AS 37.05.215 (c)(3) – Requires the site to have a link to the website of the Legislative Audit Division. The site must also include electronic copies of information related to state service procurement contracts, including compensation and contract length and of information related to independent contractors engaged by the state, by state agency, including compensation and contract length.

AS 37.05.215 (d) – Requires the Department of Revenue and other state agencies that use the central accounting system to provide information to the Department of Administration that is necessary to comply with this act.

AS 37.05.215 (e) – Clarifies that this bill will not require the disclosure of information that is confidential under state or federal law and requires that aggregated information be disclosed if it can properly protect confidentiality

AS 37.05.215 (f) Defines “expenditure,” “searchable Internet website,” and “state agency.”

Section 5

Requires the website to be operating on or before October 1, 2021.

Section 6

Requires information from the previous fiscal year be on the website by October 1, 2022 and requires site to be updated.