

# Bill as Introduced

HB 1670-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2010 SESSION

10-2555

09/10

HOUSE BILL            **1670-FN**

AN ACT                establishing a searchable budget database for state spending.

SPONSORS:            Rep. Wendelboe, Belk 1; Rep. McGuire, Merr 8; Rep. Kurk, Hills 7;  
Rep. Bettencourt, Rock 4; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3

COMMITTEE:          Finance

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ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a searchable budget database for state spending to be established and maintained by the department of administrative services.

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Explanation:        Matter added to current law appears in **bold italics**.  
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struck through.]~~  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.



1 V. "Funding source" means the state account from which the expenditure is appropriated.

2 VI. "Searchable budget database website" means a website that allows the public at no cost  
3 to search and aggregate information for the following:

4 (a) The name and principal location or residence of the entity/and or recipients of funds;

5 (b) The amount of funds expended;

6 (c) The funding or expending agency;

7 (d) The funding source of the revenue expended;

8 (e) The budget program/activity of the expenditure;

9 (f) A descriptive purpose for the funding action or expenditure;

10 (g) The expected performance outcome for the funding action or expenditure;

11 (h) The past performance outcomes achieved for the funding action or expenditure;

12 (i) Any state audit or report relating to the entity or recipient of funds or the budget  
13 program or activity or agency; and

14 (j) Any other relevant information specified by the commissioner.

15 VII. "Shall" means the obligation or duty to perform; no discretion is granted.

16 VIII. "State audit or report" shall include any audit or report issued by the department of  
17 administrative services, the legislative budget assistant, a legislative committee, or an executive  
18 body relating to the entity or recipient of funds or the budget program or activity or agency.

19 9-F:4 Searchable Budget Database Website Created.

20 I. The commissioner shall develop and make publicly available a single, searchable budget  
21 database website including the required data for the most recent state operating budget. The  
22 searchable budget database website shall be updated monthly by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for  
23 expenditures and appropriations occurring in the prior month. In addition, the commissioner may  
24 update the searchable budget database website as new data becomes available.

25 II. The searchable budget database website shall also include:

26 (a) Salary information of full-time state employees.

27 (b) An "online checkbook" detailing all state expenditures, which shall have a feature  
28 allowing state expenditures to be sorted in categories by amount of expenditure.

29 (c) All available state contract information.

30 (d) All available state grant information.

31 III. All state agencies shall provide to the commissioner all data that is required to be  
32 included in the searchable budget database website not later than 30 days after the data becomes  
33 available to the agency. The commissioner shall provide guidance to agency heads to ensure  
34 compliance with this section.

35 IV. By January 1, 2011, the commissioner shall add data for the previous operating budgets  
36 to the searchable budget database website. Data for previous fiscal years may be added as available  
37 and as time permits. The commissioner shall ensure that all data added to the searchable budget  
38 database website remains accessible to the public for a minimum of 10 years.

39 V. The searchable budget database website shall not include the following:

1           (a) Any information that is not a public record.

2           (b) Any information that is confidential pursuant to state or federal law.

3           9-F:5 Compliance with Chapter. The commissioner shall not be considered in compliance with  
4 this chapter if the data required for the searchable budget database website is not available in a  
5 searchable and aggregate manner and/or the public is redirected to other government websites,  
6 unless each of those sites has information from all agencies and each category of information  
7 required can be searched electronically by field in a single search.

8           2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

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**HB 1670-FN - FISCAL NOTE**

AN ACT establishing a searchable budget database for state spending.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Department of Administrative Services states this bill will increase state expenditures by \$212,642 in FY 2011, \$255,717 in FY 2012, \$269,008 in FY 2013, and \$283,151 in FY 2014. There will be no fiscal impact on state, county, and local revenue or on county and local expenditures.

**METHODOLOGY:**

The Department of Administrative Services states this bill requires the Department to establish and maintain a searchable database with ten years of historical data on state expenditure and budget information, detail on payments to state vendors, employee payroll, expenditures by state agency with associated funding, state contract information, state grant information with performance measures and outcomes related to the state budget, and any and all reports or audits issued by the Department, the Legislative Budget Assistant, a legislative committee, or an executive body relating to the entity or recipient of funds or the budget program or activity or agency. The Department states its Budget Office (DASBO) currently provides support for the submission of the agency proposed budgets for each biennium, and is responsible for ensuring the documents received from each agency during this process are available online. The Department states its Division of Financial Data Management (FDM) is currently responsible for supporting the budget system during the complete budget process and maintaining the integrity of the data housed in the integrated financial system as it relates to general ledger accounting and transactional reporting. The Department states its Division of Accounting Services (DADAS) is responsible for the audit process for all state expenditures, for providing guidance to state agencies through necessary accounting functions during the closing of the books each year and through subject matter experts for the various modules of the financial system, for the reporting of monthly state revenue, and for the compilation of the state's annual consolidated financial statements. The Department states these three entities would bear the responsibility for carrying out the intent of the proposed bill and would be able to absorb some of the base costs involved in compliance with the bill. However, the Department projects additional staff and funding would be required to ensure that compliance was complete.

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Although this bill does not establish positions or contain an appropriation, the Department states FDM would be required to hire a fulltime permanent financial data specialist II (LG 30) for coordination of the monthly public access publishing requirements, redaction of confidential information, data validation between the budget system and financial system interfaces, and direct daily contact with web support personnel. The Department estimates FDM would need additional funding for a separate server to support the internet application necessary for public access inquiries. The Department states DASBO would be required to hire an administrator II position (LG 29) to act as budget and expenditure analyst for the bill's reporting requirements. The Department also states DADAS would be required to hire another administrator II (LG 29) to act as a subject matter expert for coordinating grant reporting and to ensure data integrity and accuracy of the general ledger. The Department also assumes the responsibilities of all three new positions would also include coordination of these reporting efforts with the other two entities within the Department to ensure consistency and completeness. The Department assumes this bill would be enacted into law July 1, 2010 and the additional staff would be hired on September 1, 2010. The Department also assumes each position will also require funding for additional supplies and technology hardware and software. The Department estimates the fiscal impact as follows:

	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Salary and Benefits	\$196,642	\$247,117	\$260,408	\$274,551
Current expense	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Hardware & software	\$8,000	\$600	\$600	\$600
Server	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Total	\$212,642	\$255,717	\$269,008	\$283,151

# Committee Minutes



**HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Legislative Office Building, Rooms 210-211

Concord, NH

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

**HOUSE BILL 1670-FN, AN ACT** establishing a searchable budget database for state spending.

**TESTIMONY OF:**

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CHAIRMAN SMITH: I would open the hearing on House Bill 1670. That would be Representative Wendelboe. Representative Wendelboe, why don't you testify first and then submit the required pink card after this. Perhaps you didn't know the routine.

FRAN WENDELBOE, State Representative, Belknap County, District #01: You are going to trust me to follow through? Always a pleasure to be before the Finance Committee.

For the record, my name is Fran Wendelboe. I represent Belknap County, District 1. And I'm here before you on House Bill 1670 as prime sponsor establishing a searchable budget database for state spending. Also known as the Taxpayer Transparency Act.

For those of us who have been dealing with ARRA funds, you know that the focus was to have transparency and a very clear report on what those funds are, what they are being appropriated for, the actual contracts, and how they are being spent. We even put them on a different color. And I think

that's important for taxpayers to know. And if it's important for them to know it at the federal level, it's just as important for them to understand it at the state level.

I don't think anybody in this House knows any better than we do how complex the state budget is. I know sometimes I sit there and look at it and say, gosh, I can't remember what this really covers. And I've been around for a long time. Can you imagine how difficult it is for our colleagues in the House to try to find their way through the maze of PAUs even with our new accounting software. So then just imagine what it's like for the average citizen to look at that budget and understand what they're talking about.

And we are very good about dumping House Bill 1 and House Bill 2 on the web site that they can go there and find it. I doubt anybody can really figure out what most of it means. So there has been an effort in a number of states to have a taxpayer transparency program where there is a real user-friendly web site in state government that explains very clearly budgeting, explains the appropriations, and so on. And I will tell you, if you research this, and there's an excellent web site which I have copies of that I will give for the Subcommittee to use -- I assume this will go to Division -- that kind of covers how a number of states have done this. There's 29 states that have passed some kind of state transparency act. And one common thread is when it's first proposed the first argument is, oh, that's going to cost millions and millions of dollars. We don't have the money. And, in fact, in practically every single state they found it cost nowhere near what their estimate was and in most cases were nominal dollars using existing budgets and existing staff.

I can also tell you here in New Hampshire that the Josiah Bartlett Center has been trying to do this independently through right-to-know requests. And I've got to believe that going through the right-to-know motions for our state employees trying to comply has got to be probably more work than just figuring out a way to do this.

I spoke to the Governor last week about this bill and he assured me that, oh, yes, he absolutely is in support of accountability and transparency in government as I know our Chairman has often talked about as well. And then he says, what does Linda say? And I'm sure Linda is going to say we can't afford it. You know, it's like one of those things that you mean to get to and you never get around to it. But when it becomes a crisis and you just have to get it done, you're always amazed at, God, why didn't I do this long ago and get it over with. And I think this is probably one of those things that fall into there.

This web site would not only do appropriations but expenditures. It would put all contracts, it would put grants, it would put state employees' salaries. And believe it or not, I understand that the state employees union likes that idea and likes the idea of government accountability. You might find some very strange bedfellows in support of this bill and I'd like this bill to be a bi-partisan bill because I don't think it's a Republican issue or a Democratic issue. It's a good government issue and we owe it to our citizens to have a clearer explanation of how their money is raised and spent.

Obviously, there are some concerns of confidentiality and there are parts of government that you would never disclose who are getting the checks and part of this legislation would require

the checkbook to be put on-line. Sounds daunting but it really isn't. But obviously, if you have a check going out to a TANF recipient, you're not going to put that TANF recipient's name and address and this bill has protections for that. They would simply code those items that were confidential because of personal information and they would just have that particular information deleted but the amount would still be listed and it would say TANF check.

You know, the web site, The Center for Fiscal Accountability, has a map and you can go for each state and it explains exactly what their bill did and how it was structured. And they're all different. And I researched quite a few of them in deciding what to attempt to include in our bill and what not to include. And you will see that the cost estimates were always pretty high. But also there's the information that show the actual number. Probably the biggest example was the State of Kansas which initially said it would cost \$40 million to get this web site done. Well, what they didn't make clear was that \$40 million price tag was for the overhaul of their complete accounting system, the entire financial management system which had already been decided. It was already budgeted. Ultimately, the web site construction was slipped into the bigger project and the actual price tag for the implementation was nothing.

Does it save dollars? There's examples here of states when they looked at it and saw how many different places -- toner was used as an example. How many different agencies were buying toners in how many different places. That just by consolidating it into one purchasing point and negotiating a contracted price they were able to save hundreds of thousands of dollars. So there are potential savings and one of the things that come

to my mind, a lot of small businesses think that government contracts are only for the big boys. And then they realize that they really follow what these various contracts were. Sometimes there's contracts that aren't massive huge contracts. I remember this -- and I'm sure many of you might remember the story -- a couple of years ago there was a pothole, I think, in Portsmouth and it was put out for bid and there was a contract for couple hundred thousand dollars to repair this parking lot. And a news story was done about it and after the fact there were several local, smaller, paving companies that came forward and said, gee, you know, we would have been more than happy to bid for that. And we would have bid a fraction of that cost. You know, how many cases are there out there like that because somebody doesn't happen to have a lobbyist that follows the Executive Council agenda, or follows the newspaper ads? If it's on a web site that's easily searchable. There are all kind of opportunities, not only in learning about our budget, but in potentially increasing who can do business with our government.

So I think that gives you the highlights. I think the timing is right. I don't think it would be very expensive. And I'd be more than happy to answer any questions you might have.

CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you very much, Representative Wendelboe. Representative Keans.

REP. KEANS: Right. I don't think I missed it. I heard you talk about Kansas, but is there some state that is doing this particularly well, Representative Wendelboe, that you're aware of? Have you looked at various other --

REP. WENDELBOE: You know, if you talk with people, you know, they throw out various states.

You know, Kansas is held up as an ideal. Tennessee is another one. I think Utah. But they're all different. And some of them, you know, don't put state employees' salaries. Some of them -- and one of the big debates was to say you only put the checkbook for checks over \$1,000. And the feedback I got was you put the whole thing but you put a search option in there that people can sort it by dollars and if they only want to look at the really big contracts. Another big point was the more open it is, the more people who know about who is doing business with the government, that there's closer scrutiny and that the chance for fraud is much, much less because there's more openness and more people watching who's doing business with the government.

REP. KEANS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you very much.  
Representative Belvin.

REP. BELVIN: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
Representative Wendelboe, I'm down in the weeds with this question. A searchable database, most databases that have regularly queries put against them will have a report writer that sits on top of them so that you, the user, can make a query and that the proper fourth generation structured language is going to work, and you will get back the answer to the question you thought you entered. But if you allow free access to any aspect of the database that implies that you're structuring your own queries. And as I sadly know, databases will always give you an answer, but it may not be the one that you thought you structured the query for. So how it's actually done tremendously affects its utility. Would you not agree?

REP. WENDELBOE: You know, Representative

Belvin, you might be in the weeds, but I'm probably in the roots. I'm not an IT person and I wish Representative Ober was here because she is.

REP. BELVIN: As do I.

REP. WENDELBOE: You know, I think there are saner heads that will prevail and show how to do that, and it certainly isn't me.

REP. BELVIN: Madam Chair, as in my prior question on immunities, searchable be a point of real inquiry when we work on this bill.

CHAIRMAN SMITH: And as you know, it is scheduled for work session tomorrow, and I hope that Representative Wendelboe will have that material for us to look at. Representative Foster.

REP. FOSTER: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. Representative Wendelboe, you know that I'm always one for not reinventing the wheel. So what I'm wondering is if you can give us a few web sites. Personally, I'd like to go right across to my office as soon as this is over and I would like to get on one of those other state's web sites and see what I can find.

REP. WENDELBOE: Representative Foster, if you go to [www.fiscalaccountability.org](http://www.fiscalaccountability.org).

REP. FOSTER: Hm-hum.

REP. WENDELBOE: They have a synopsis of all the states and what they have. And you can actually just click the link, it will take you right to their web site and you can see what their web site looks like.

REP. FOSTER: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SMITH: That's homework for everyone tonight. Thank you very much, Representative Wendelboe. Representative Elliott.

REP. ELLIOTT: Thank you, Madam. Representative, am I correct that this would require five new hires at roughly 40,000 to 58,000 in 2014 per person; is that correct?

REP. WENDELBOE: Well --

REP. ELLIOTT: If you do it by five.

REP. WENDELBOE: I do know how the LBA works. They send this to the Department, which would have been the Department of Administrative Services, and they decide how many people they'll need to hire. And as I said earlier, every state when this was first proposed came out with big numbers of how many additional people they would have to hire. I would say that the number of people that they're having to use right now running around with right-to-know requests for this very same information that is supposed to be open and accessible already isn't going to go away. And if we don't pass this and do it, you're going to have not only Josiah Bartlett but any untold number of other entities that are going to be fishing around and making right to know requests for the very same type information. And that takes staff that's doing it right now. So they already have the staff. And I know that everybody likes to look at ways to hire additional staff, but I think that if we pass this legislation it would not be necessary for new funded positions.

REP. ELLIOTT: Is that a yes or a no?

REP. WENDELBOE: It is a yes that the fiscal



note might say that the Department says they would need six people.

REP. ELLIOTT: Five people.

REP. WENDELBOE: But it is a no, I do not think that they would need five people.

CHAIRMAN SMITH: Mr. Murphy.

GERARD MURPHY, Budget Analyst, Budget Division, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant: I believe the fiscal note says three additional.

REP. ELLIOTT: I thought it said two administrators and three additional? It would be Administrator II -- I'm sorry, I'm out of --

CHAIRMAN SMITH: Actually, the next witness will be Mr. Bouchard who I imagine would be able to address this matter in addition to anything else he might want to say. Representative Casey.

REP. CASEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Representative Wendelboe. I have a question regarding how deep the expectation would be for some of our non-profits, corporations that we contract out. Would they be included in a database --

REP. WENDELBOE: Yes.

REP. CASEY: -- beyond the -- I'm sorry, just let me finish -- beyond just the State's contractual obligation to that non-profit? Would they have to perform descriptive purpose for the funding, expected performance, outcomes, performance outcomes, all of that? Non-profits.

REP. WENDELBOE: Absolutely. Obviously,

Representative, when a non-profit requests funding from the State they must tell us why they want it and what they plan to do with it. So how much more difficult is it for that information to be put down as to what the funding was requested and what the intent is. They've already give that information or we obviously wouldn't give the money or I hope we wouldn't be giving the money.

REP. CASEY: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SMITH: Any other questions? Thank you very much, Representative, and you might have been in and out today. We are going to be in work session in the full Committee tomorrow for a number of bills and we'll try to schedule each bill based on when the sponsor can be here. I do know that we are going to begin at 10 o'clock with 1643, and the others we'll be -- we'll be addressing as sponsors can be here.

REP. WENDELBOE: Tomorrow is a piece of cake for me, Madam Chairman. I only have two bills that I'm sponsor of instead of five that I have been trying to run hither and yon to today.

CHAIRMAN SMITH: It will be a rest day then. Mr. Bouchard.

JOSEPH BOUCHARD, Assistant Commissioner,  
Department of Administrative Services: Good afternoon, Chairman Smith, and Committee Members. I'm here to speak to the nature of the fiscal note that attaches -- that is attached to House Bill 1670, as I am the author of that note. Basically, the need to build a searchable database and to deal with public inquiries that we have received in Administrative Services has been known for a long time. We have been working through the implementation of our new systems to have a better,

more transparent Chart of Accounts which allows agencies to see specific class lines that have unique nature of definitions where before they were -- we were all embroiled with a budget of over 70% in our Class 90s. So we've made great strides in that regard. We have implemented a new system, a financial system since last July, which is on a different database historically and in a different Chart of Accounts than our old chart obviously. So we are at a new baseline as far as the ability to provide data.

The challenge, as Representative Wendelboe stated, is the lack of resources to be able to handle our current workload in support of our systems as well as to do these undertakings that incorporate dedicated resources. The Representative spoke about Josiah Bartlett requests where they have a grant and they'd like to create a database parallel to what this bill suggests be done. We've been working since April, a small group in our office, trying to -- last April to provide that information and we've encountered challenges, many of which have slowed the process down more than we would have liked.

First of all, being candid, when we deal with databases of this type there are two things that we hold, and I speak for Commissioner Hodgdon as well as myself. With the transparency, we cannot jeopardize the privacy rights of the vendors or employees by the data that we provide. And we cannot place information on a web site application. This is the world-wide web where there's just as many people out there that have the potential to do evil as to do good to see the data in our database that could cause any harm to an employee or to a citizen of the state. So we have been -- the redaction of the data in our database takes a lot of review and scrutiny to make sure that it's not

-- doesn't just go out the door and have people who want to do evil find employees or citizens and so we have taken that very, very seriously.

The fiscal note that is prepared deals with three dedicated resources that would be a cadre of people to manage the data, assemble it, post it on the web, update the web site, make it searchable, and deal with redactions necessary to make sure that this data is only good data that can be presented for public use.

We have three -- there's three natures of the bill. We have the Financial Data Management Unit which deals with the support of all of our systems. They would need a business administrator in that office to deal with the web application. The connectivity from our multiple databases because our vendor file is not the same as our HR file is not the same as our financial files. So to put these all on one web site we have to have interfaces that migrate them to one location so an individual, in turn, can do a search and find out not only a payment and the source of the funding, but also find out who it went to so that they can total up, for example, all the payments to Audley Construction for the last ten years, because this deals with a ten-year buildable-base base building so that's an example of what the challenges are to get this up and running.

So we would have an individual that would work in the Financial Data Management side of the house. We have a person in my office who would deal with the interface with the agencies on a monthly basis for all the data that would have to be handed to us that deals with contractals, performance measures, that this bill asks us to be able to provide for everybody that we contract with. Deals with grants, the nature of the grants, which we don't have

anywhere in the database currently, but we will as we implement the new grants activities module in the system, and as well it will deal with the funding side of the house which is where the third person comes in which will be somebody that would work in Bureau of Accounts which deals with the general ledger side of our checkbook which deals with cash, revenues, and in turn, would make sure that when we say that this was a general fund expense, because that's where all of these databases go. They just don't want to see all expenses, they want to see how much was spent on toner for general funds, highway funds, Fish and Game funds, that our general ledger ties to this so we can make some sense and it's accurate and, of course, we want to have a database that's accurate. So we start with building with three individuals that are 100% dedicated pulling this together and that's basically the nature of what Representative Elliott was talking about. Those were the three folks we would need.

CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you very much.  
Representative Belvin.

REP. BELVIN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Joe, could you tell me what searchable means by way of a suite of reports that might be built to be generated out of this database versus some free form structured inquiry?

MR. BOUCHARD: Well, from what I've seen, Representative, what other states do is they manage inquiries to build reports that are typically -- would be a typical search for an individual coming in so that then you would have a library that you would go to and say just give me all the current expenses for the year for Department of Transportation. Or all equipment purchases for the state. So that basically you build a -- would be a

building of a library for an individual to go in and you would aim them toward the search that would make their lives easier versus trying to figure out, well, I know Audley's in construction, Pike, where they try to grab vendor names and such. So and then the nature of that would say if you're only interested in general funds, you have the ability to start working from all expenses and then do a selection for general funds and highway funds. So the web site kind of focuses the searcher, in lieu of going in and having to do select data fields which individuals obviously in the public may not know, you know, how our budget is built.

REP. BELVIN: Follow-up?

CHAIRMAN SMITH: Certainly.

REP. BELVIN: Consequently, if I had a unique one-time query, how would I make it?

MR. BOUCHARD: Well, I think it would depend on the nature of if it's a payroll inquiry and you wanted to sort every state employee by who made the most money, it would be a query that perhaps built into an Excel format which would be the highest to lowest over the course of a year where we would give you drop downs to be able to build the query that way. It's a myriad in looking at the detail, especially when it comes to performance measures or contracts and grants and vendors, the amount of detail that we could ask agencies to pull in, and again, this suggests that we have it in one site and not build links. That it all be in one location. It's quite an undertaking to pull that information, because we know that HHS has a strong database but maybe not in the same format that we need to get it into our format.

REP. BELVIN: So you might -- if I may?

CHAIRMAN SMITH: Hm-hum.

REP. BELVIN: You might then plop Excel on top of this and say, well, whatever search capability Excel gives you, you could then protect the database and it would then express itself out for itself.

MR. BOUCHARD: That's one option, I believe.

REP. BELVIN: An option. I know a number of ways not to do it.

MR. BOUCHARD: I know.

CHAIRMAN SMITH: I think we like that list of ways not to do it. I don't know if this is a good time to ask the question, Mr. Bouchard. You don't have to answer, but are we making any progress in being able to get a monthly expense report?

MR. BOUCHARD: We are making, I think, very good progress. We have committed to the Governor at a high level for him. We created reports for him that deal with all agency expenditures based on year-to-date actuals versus the full appropriation. And we are working on getting a prototype for -- obviously for agencies to utilize in a test mode after, I would hope this month, actually. These are not -- these are not the same as a citizen-based web site, but it is -- it is something that we now can do with our new database. We have to, however, support when a Governor asks for agencies to come in and explain their expenditures, we have to be able to have reports ready for 64 agencies to go in and answer his questions or should the legislature do that as well. So our focus has been internally on our own -- on our own reporting versus externally. But we are as close as we have

ever been and I know the Governor is excited at the progress we've made.

CHAIRMAN SMITH: The legislature, I think, would very much like to share the Governor's excitement and in order for us to do that we would actually have to be privy to the information that you say is now available for the Governor. And I hope that at some point very soon you would -- you and the Commissioner would be able to make sure that the legislature has access to that expenditure report since that was one of the most significant selling points --

MR. BOUCAHRD: Hm-hum.

CHAIRMAN SMITH: -- for the new system. And it might really be able to help us even at this time when in addition to knowing how the revenue is coming in, it would be awfully nice if we could know how the expenditures were going out.

MR. BOUCHARD: Understood, Madam.

CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you very much. Anybody else have anything else to say? Thank you again for spending the afternoon with us.

MR. BOUCHARD: You're welcome.

CHAIRMAN SMITH: I know you don't have other things to do so it was delightful to have you here.

MR. BOUCHARD: My pleasure. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SMITH: Jay Ward.

JAY WARD, NH State Employees Association: Thank you, Madam Chair, Members of the Committee. For the record, my name is Jay Ward and I'm here



representing New Hampshire SEA and we are in support of an open and accessible database that contains all of the expenditures and revenues. We think that an open public budget will foster and promote accountability and integrity in the way that we raise and spend our dollars. And we would even go a little bit further and I know in the bill it specifically says that it has to have state employees actual wages. We would think that any tax dollars that are expended for contracts, outside contractors, that have employees, we should have the same information. We think that that just makes perfect sense. And we think that by being open we'll have more accountability and it will promote a feeling of responsibility over the tax dollars, and I think it will promote a general feeling of taxpayers understanding where their money goes a little bit better. And then they become more supportive of programs that we have out there.

I would suggest and the question was raised on what states that are doing it well, and from what we've seen, and we've looked at a number of states, I would think that the first place maybe would be the State of Utah. They have a very good program. Kansas has a very good web site. Louisiana, Georgia, and Maine is actually getting a lot better. They've been making leaps and bounds on their web site.

CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you. And, Mr. Ward, are these all accessible through the *fiscalaccountability.org* site that Representative Wendelboe mentioned?

MR. WARD: I do not know that. We have accessed them through the *state.gov* like ours is *nh.gov*. So if you go to *Utah.gov*.

CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you very much. Are there

any questions? If not, thank you very much for taking the time --

MR. WARD: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SMITH: -- to come and we'll be working on this tomorrow again. Anyone else want to testify on this bill? If not, the hearing on 1670 is ended.

{Hearing concluded}

## CERTIFICATION

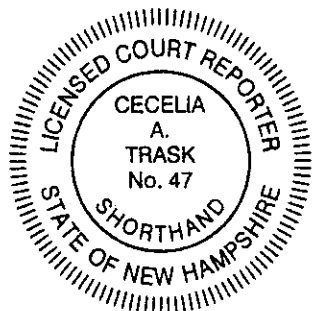
I, Cecelia A. Trask, a Licensed Court Reporter-Shorthand, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate transcript from my shorthand notes taken on said date to the best of my ability, skill, knowledge and judgment.

Cecelia A. Trask

Cecelia A. Trask, LSR, RMR, CRR

State of New Hampshire

License No. 47



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WORK SESSION ON HB 1670-FN

BILL TITLE: establishing a searchable budget database for state spending.  
DATE: January 20, 2010  
LOB ROOM: 210-211 Time Work Session Called to Order: 11:00  
Time Adjourned: 11:35

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. M. Smith, Nordgren, Foster, Eaton, Baroody, Benn, Leishman, DeJon, Bucc, Poore, Mitchell, Keans, Casey, Harris, Kurk, D. Scamman, E. Anderson, Emerton, Rodeschin, Wendelboe, L. Ober, Dokmo, Bergin, Belvin and R. Elliott.

Bill Sponsors: Rep. Wendelboe, Belk 1; Rep. McGuire, Merr 8; Rep. Kurk, Hills 7; Rep. Bettencourt, Rock 4; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3

TESTIMONY

\* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Chairman M. Smith alerted the committee to a similar bill, HB 1651.

Rep. L. Ober – Talked to State Treasurer Katherine Provencher and Mr. Richard Bailey, Department of Information Technology (DoIT). Both said information is being requested for right to know. Mr. Bailey advised a module available within the system. Treasurer Provencher and Mr. Bailey asked for implementation in 2012. Surprised by fiscal note need for people because voting already happens.

Rep. Wendelboe – Congressional Budget estimated cost \$4 million per year. OMB did it cheaper. Organizations making systems available for free. Willing to work on dates. Unions have no problem publishing salaries. This could be a staged process. How much can we do now?

Comm. Hodgdon, Department of Administrative Services (DAS) – Support effort and concept. Josiah Bartlett Center asked for every check state has written. More complicated. Need to protect confidentiality. Comm. Hodgdon not familiar with Mr. Bailey's assertion – must think carefully, very complicated.

Rep. Wendelboe – Should be able to deal with need for privacy with proper coding. Twenty-nine states have already begun to do it.

Comm. Hodgdon – If we want to do it we can do it.

Rep. Wendelboe – May find it's not as big a job as you think. I'm willing to help.

Rep. Kurk – HB 1651 and what we're talking about focuses on getting information out there. HB 1670 talks about searchable.

Comm. Hodgdon – Need to understand how you'll get information. Current staff is fully used. We need to know what we want from them. We have to prioritize good cases to conform to staff.

Chairman M. Smith – Asked Mr. Bailey to be here tomorrow for HB 1651.

Rep. L. Ober – If information is displayed you can search it.

Chairman M. Smith – Send instructions to committee. As we look forward when will be able to do monthly expenses.

Comm. Hodgdon – Governor will talk tomorrow.

Rep. Foster – Concerned about confidentiality of contracts and families or individuals.

Chairman M. Smith – Didn't Rep. Wendelboe address this?

Rep. Foster – Still concerned.

Rep. Wendelboe – Don't think bill does this; used Humanities Council as example. State employees concerned about salary of contractors.

Chairman M. Smith – State Employees Association (SEA) supports to look at what outsourced work is really costing.

Rep. Wendelboe – Willing to work on this, not proposing copying a specific state.

Chairman M. Smith – Humanities does not get money from State.

Rep. K. Casey – If we're giving tax money why wouldn't people ultimately ask for detail particularly in small communities? Have to adapt to rural nature of New Hampshire.

Rep. DeJoie – EDA addresses release of information. Dearth of information regarding information on how contractors spend money for budgeting.

Rep. Wendelboe – We should ask Executive Council to seek information but Executive Council should reform practices.

Rep. DeJoie – We haven't allowed Executive Council to do this in law. Department of Administrative Services can't follow.

Rep. Belvin – Need to look at SEC forms for public committees.

Rep. R. Elliott – If we pass now we're turning over to Commissioner a huge responsibility. Too many flaws; can't support without improvements.

Rep. Benn – As a minimum Audley uses subcontractors how is money tracked.

Rep. Mitchell – How long have 29 states been doing problems?

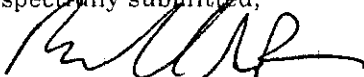
Rep. Wendelboe – Check website, most states can do this.

Rep. Emerton – Sensitive to subcontractors.

Rep. Baroody – Can't people do this on their own? How far down do you go?

Work session adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rep. Randy Foose, Clerk

Motions:      OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote:            (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

Motions:      OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote:            (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WORK SESSION ON HB 1670-FN

BILL TITLE: establishing a searchable budget database for state spending.

DATE: Type Date 1/20/10

LOB ROOM: 210-211

Time Work Session Called to Order:

1100  
1130

Time Adjourned:

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. M. Smith, Nordgren, Foster, Eaton, Baroody, Benn, Leishman, DeLoie, Bucó, Foose, Mitchell, Keans, Casóy, Harris, Kurk, D. Scamman, E. Anderson, Emerton, Rodeschin, Wendelboe, L. Ober, Dokmo, Bergin, Belvin and R. Elliott.

Bill Sponsors: Rep. Wendelboe, Belk 1; Rep. McGuire, Merr 8; Rep. Kurk, Hills 7; Rep. Bettencourt, Rock 4; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3

TESTIMONY

\* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Retained (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote: (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Retained (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote: (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

1670

1651 - FN -

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Wendalboe - should be able to deal with need for privacy with proper coding 29 states have already begun to do it

Hodgkin - If we want to do it we can do it

Wendalboe - may find its not as big a job as you think. I'm willing to help

Kirk 1651 and what we're talking about focuses on getting info out there

1670 talks about searchability

Hodgkin - you're right

Kirk - can you put info out so that it can be searched

Hodgkin - need to understand how you'll get info.

Current staff is fully used We need to know what we want from them

We have to prioritize good cases to conform to staff

Smith - as Bailey to be here tomorrow for 1651



Ober - if info is displayed you can search it

Smith - send instructions to committee  
As we look forward when will be ~~be~~ able to do monthly expenses

Hodgkin - governor will talk tomorrow.  
Foster - concerned about confidentiality of contracts ~~with~~ and families or individuals

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Foster - still concerned

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Smith - Humanities does not get \$ from state

Casey - if we're giving tax \$ why wouldn't people ultimately ask for detail particularly in small communities have to adapt to rural nature of NH

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Dept of Administration can't follow

Balvin ~~etc~~ need to look at SEC forms for public committees

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Benn - as a minimum Audley uses subcontractors how is \$ tracked

Mitchell - how long have states been doing problems

Wendleboe - check web site most states can do this

Emerton - sensitive to subcontractors

Baroudy - can't people do this on their own  
How far down do you go

# Speakers



# Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 1670-FN

**BILL TITLE:** establishing a searchable budget database for state spending.

**DATE:** January 19, 2010

**LOB ROOM:** 210-211      **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 3:45

**Time Adjourned:** 4:15

(please circle if present)

**Committee Members:** Reps. M. Smith, Nordgren, Foster, Eaton, Baroud, Benn, Leishman, DeJoie, Bue, Foose, Mitchell, Keans, Casey, Harris, Kurk, D. Scamman, E. Anderson, Emerton, Rodeschin, Wendelboe, L. Ober, Dokmo, Bergin, Belvin and R. Elliott.

**Bill Sponsors:** Rep. Wendelboe, Belk 1; Rep. McGuire, Merr 8; Rep. Kurk, Hills 7; Rep. Bettencourt, Rock 4; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3

TESTIMONY

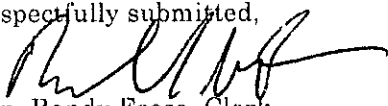
\* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Rep. Fran Wendelboe, prime-sponsor, introduced the bill and spoke in support.

Assist. Comm. Joseph Bouchard, Department of Administrative Services (DAS), spoke to fiscal note only. Concern about cost.

Mr. Jay Ward, 201 N. Main St., Concord, NH, representing NH State Employees Association (NHSEA), spoke in support of the bill.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Rep. Randy Foose, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 1670-FN

BILL TITLE: establishing a searchable budget database for state spending.

DATE: {Type HEARING DATE here}

LOB ROOM: 210-211

Time Public Hearing Called to Order:

3:45

Time Adjourned:

4:15

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. M. Smith, Nordgren, Foster, Eaton, Baroody, Benn, Leishman, DeJoie, Bucco, Boose, Mitchell, Keans, Casey, Harris, Kurk, D. Scamman, C. Anderson, Emerton, Rodeschin, Wendelboe, L. Ober, Dokmo, Bergin, Belvin and R. Elliott

Bill Sponsors: Rep. Wendelboe, Belk 1; Rep. McGuire, Merr 8; Rep. Kurk, Hills 7; Rep. Bettencourt, Rock 4; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3

TESTIMONY

\* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

- ① Wendelboe sponsor
- ② Bouchard - spoke to Fiscal note only - concern about cost -
- ③ Jay Ward - SEA - Support bill

# Voting Sheets



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1670-FN

BILL TITLE: establishing a searchable budget database for state spending.  
DATE: January 26, 2010  
LOB ROOM: 210-211

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:  
Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:  
Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. D. Eaton

Seconded by Rep. Foose

Vote: 11-7 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

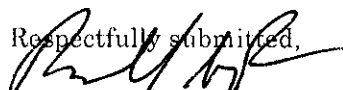
Seconded by Rep.

Vote: (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

REGULAR or CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE: (Please circle one)

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Rep. Robert A. Foose, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1670-FN

BILL TITLE: establishing a searchable budget database for state spending.

DATE: {Type DATE} 1-26-2010

LOB ROOM: 210-211

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Soton

Seconded by Rep. Foose

Vote: 11-7 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote: (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

REGULAR or CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE: (Please circle one)  
(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,  
Rep. Robert A. Foose, Clerk

FINANCE

Bill #: HB 1670-FN Title: searchable budget database for state spending

PH Date: 01 / 19 / 2010

Exec Session Date: 01 / 26 / 2010

Motion: JTC

Amendment #:

MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS
Smith, Marjorie K, Chairman	11	
Nordgren, Sharon, V Chairman		
Foster, Linda T	1	
Eaton, Daniel A	2	
Baroody, Benjamin C	3	
Benn, Bernard L	4	
Leishman, Peter R	5	
DeJoie, John		
Buco, Thomas L	6	
Foose, Robert A, Clerk	7	
Mitchell, Bonnie	8	
Keans, Sandra B		
Casey, Kimberley S	9	
Harris, Sandra C	10	
Kurk, Neal M		1
Scamman, W. Douglas		2
Anderson, Eric		3
Emerton, Larry A		4
Rodeschin, Beverly T		5
Wendelboe, Fran		6
Ober, Lynne M		
Dokmo, Cynthia J		
Bergin, Peter F		
Belvin, William S		
Elliott, Robert J		7
	11	7
TOTAL VOTE:		

# Committee Report

REGULAR CALENDAR

January 27, 2010

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on FINANCE to which was referred HB1670-FN,

AN ACT establishing a searchable budget database for state spending. Having considered the same, report the same with the following Resolution: RESOLVED, That it is INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Daniel A Eaton

FOR THE COMMITTEE

## COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	FINANCE
Bill Number:	HB1670-FN
Title:	establishing a searchable budget database for state spending.
Date:	January 27, 2010
Consent Calendar:	NO
Recommendation:	INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

### STATEMENT OF INTENT

HB 1670 as introduced would require significant amendment. The committee has a more comprehensive bill still in its possession that we felt was a more appropriate vehicle to review as part of a package.

Vote 11-7.

Rep. Daniel A Eaton  
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

FINANCE

HB1670-FN, establishing a searchable budget database for state spending. INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Daniel A Eaton for FINANCE. HB 1670 as introduced would require significant amendment. The committee has a more comprehensive bill still in its possession that we felt was a more appropriate vehicle to review as part of a package. Vote 11-7.

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

Eaton

# COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: FINANCE

BILL NUMBER: HB 1670-FN

TITLE: Establishing a searchable budget database  
for state spending

DATE: 1-26-2010 CONSENT CALENDAR: YES  NO

- OUGHT TO PASS
- OUGHT TO PASS W/ AMENDMENT
- INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE
- INTERIM STUDY (Available only 2<sup>nd</sup> year of biennium)

Amendment No.  _____
----------------------------

STATEMENT OF INTENT:

HB 1670 AS INTRODUCED WOULD REQUIRE SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENT, THE COMMITTEE HAS A MORE COMPREHENSIVE BILL STILL IN IT'S POSSESSION THAT WE FEEL WAS A MORE APPROPRIATE VEHICLE TO REVIEW AS PART OF A PACKAGE

MKS

COMMITTEE VOTE: 11-7

- Copy to Committee Bill File
- Use Another Report for Minority Report

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

Rep. Carroll Adams, Jr.  
For the Committee



## New Hampshire General Court - Bill Status System

**Docket of HB1670**

Docket Abbreviations

**Bill Title:** establishing a searchable budget database for state spending.*Official Docket of **HB1670**:*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Body</b>	<b>Description</b>
12/21/2009	H	Introduced 1/6/2010 and Referred to Finance; <b>HJ 6</b> , PG.247
1/5/2010	H	Public Hearing: 1/19/2010 2:00 PM LOB 210-211
1/5/2010	H	Full Committee Work Session: 1/20/2010 10:00 AM LOB 210-211
1/5/2010	H	Executive Session: 1/26/2010 10:00 AM LOB 210-211
1/27/2010	H	Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate for Feb 3 RC (vote 11-7); <b>HC 11</b> , PG.469
2/3/2010	H	Inexpedient to Legislate: MA <b>RC</b> 201-162; <b>HJ 15</b> , PG.699-701

NH House

NH Senate