

ADVISORY GROUP ON Efficiency and Benchmarking **PROPOSAL#:** AGEB # 23A
SUBJECT: State Budget Website **DATE ADOPTED BY ADVISORY GROUP:** 10-6-09
COMMISSION ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

RECOMMENDATION: That Louisiana state government create a website modeled after the "Where the Money Goes: Window on State Government and Transparency at Work in Texas" website provided by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts which is a user friendly website containing a database on state spending searchable by state agency, payee and category of expense, and which includes a virtual check register updated daily and available twenty-four hours a day. The Commission further recommends that Louisiana state government also assimilate into this new website the best practices and user-friendly nature exhibited by the state of Utah's "transparent.utah.gov" website, which is dedicated to the transparency and accountability of Utah's government finances.

Summary Description/Nature of Change	Key Implementation Responsibilities	Need	Action Needed	Benefit/Saving	Done/Study
<p>That Louisiana state government create a website modeled after the "Where the Money Goes: Window on State Government and Transparency at Work in Texas" website provided by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts which is a user friendly website containing a database on state spending searchable by state agency, payee and category of expense, and which includes a virtual check register updated daily and available twenty-four hours a day. The Commission further recommends that Louisiana state government also assimilate into this new website the best practices and user-friendly nature exhibited by the state of Utah's "transparent.utah.gov" website, which is dedicated to the transparency and accountability of Utah's government finances.</p>	<p>Legislature, Governors Office</p>	<p>To increase transparency of state government spending through a web-based interface that is easily understood by Louisiana's taxpayers.</p>	<p>Statutory Enactment or Executive Order</p>		

The Louisiana Streamlining Government Commission believes that the people of Louisiana deserve a more transparent and accountable government, with easily accessed information about how the government spends taxpayers' dollars. Our form of government requires an informed populace. Yet, we are not fully informed if we do not know where our tax dollars are being spent. Although some of this information is technically accessible, and meaningful efforts have been taken by the Jindal Administration and others to make this information more accessible, our goal should be the presentation of this information in the most understandable and user-friendly format possible. Technology now affords us the ability to create searchable, comprehensive websites that will make the financial operations of our government fully transparent, reduce fraud and corruption, reduce the appearance of fraud and corruption, and demonstrate our commitment to open and honest government.

The Commission further finds that posting budgets and contracts on the Internet and creating virtual check registers would give anyone with Internet access the ability to serve as a government watchdog. Therefore, the Louisiana Streamlining Government Commission recommends to the governor and the Louisiana Legislature that Louisiana state government create a website modeled after the "Where the Money Goes: Window on State Government and Transparency at Work in Texas" website provided by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. This award-winning, user-friendly website contains a database on state spending searchable by state agency, payee and category of expense, and includes a virtual check register (a daily record of agency expenditure showing amount and who received the payments) that is updated daily and available 24 hours a day. The Commission further recommends that Louisiana state government also assimilate into this new website the best practices and user-friendly nature exhibited by the state of Utah's "transparent.utah.gov" website, which is dedicated to the transparency and accountability of Utah's government finances.