

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOA 1/6/2004

LRB Number 03-2720/2	Introduction Number AB-541	Estimate Type Original
Subject Personal information on state and local government websites prohibited		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

If enacted this bill, would restrict certain personal information that could be published on state or local government websites.

The following assumes that the proposed legislation applies to publicly accessible websites only.

Based on a survey of state agencies, there are two primary situations that could lead to noncompliance if this legislation is enacted. The first involves social security numbers. In general, state agencies do not publish social security numbers. However, several sites include federal identification numbers (FEIN). While the bill does not restrict publication of FEIN, some sole proprietors use social security numbers in lieu of the FEIN. Consequently, these sites may include a mix of FEIN and social security numbers.

The second issue involves references to individual's work phone numbers. Many state and local agencies publish directories (including individual names and phone numbers) as a service to customers. For example, the Supreme Court website includes a directory of municipal judges and their work phone numbers. Another example is the Department of Revenue website that includes a tax preparer directory including name, address and work phone number. A limited review of local government sites identified similar instances.

State or local governments could take several actions to bring their sites into compliance including:

- Eliminate the website section or list entirely. For example, the Courts could eliminate the list of municipal judges from their website.
- Partially eliminate non-compliant information. For example, vendor lists could still be published but without FEINs.
- Replace phone numbers or other information with links to other websites where consumers could obtain the phone number or other information.
- Survey the individuals listed to verify that all phone numbers are general office numbers and not personally assigned.

The cost associated with these changes cannot be estimated based on limited information.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Unknown