



HB16-1230 Transparency Online Project

CCI's Position: Oppose Unless Amended

HB16-1230 requires counties to provide revenue and expenditure data in a state mandated format to the Chief Information Officer for inclusion in the State Transparency Online Project site (TOPS). If a county fails to provide this data in this format, the Department of Local Affairs will consider this an adverse factor when making local government severance grant awards.

This is an unnecessary restatement of existing requirements. Financial information for counties, municipalities and special districts are currently posted online on the Department of Local Affairs' website (<https://dola.colorado.gov/lgis/>). This website is an interactive portal that allows local governments to e-file their budgets, budget amendments and audited financial statements. Additionally, counties are the only level of government required to publish monthly expenditure reports and semi-financial audits in the newspaper. The following table summarizes current statutory requirements counties follow to provide information to the public.

Existing Statutory Requirements – Local Government Transparency ⁱ			
	Required Budget Filings to DOLA	Required Budget Supplemental Filings to DOLA	Required Publication of Monthly Expenditure Reports (see screen shot 4) and semi-annual financial statements (see screen shot 5)
Counties	CRS 29-1-113	CRS 29-1-109	CRS 30-25-111(1) and CRS 30-25-111(2)
Municipalities	CRS 29-1-113	CRS 29-1-109	n/a
Special Districts	CRS 29-1-113	CRS 29-1-109	n/a

Counties, like the state, are fiscally prudent and support transparency.

CCI is seeking amendments to repeal the publication requirement in CRS 30-25-111. If county revenue and expenditure data must be submitted to TOP in a specifically required format, counties are seeking to use limited taxpayer dollars to comply with the workload and cost associated with this mandate. Additionally, counties are seeking amendments to allow, rather than require, non-compliance with HB 1230 to be considered an adverse factor when making severance tax grants.

ⁱ School Districts are required under CRS 22-44-301 to post their budget, annual audited financial statements, and other data online, either on the school district's website or by providing it to the Department of Education.