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**House Bill 444**  
"Create Budget Database Website for Taxpayer Right to Know" ~~Bill No.~~ HB 444

Informational Testimony by Jeff Brandt  
State Information Technology Services Division (SITSD)  
Department of Administration  
444-3988

**Before the  
Senate Finance & Claims Committee**  
April 12, 2011

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, for the record my name is Jeff Brandt. I'm with the State Information Technology Services Division (SITSD) within the Department of Administration.

The bulk of the effort to comply with this bill will fall to the Department of Administration. Much of the data required by the bill falls under the responsibilities of the department's State Accounting Division, State Human Resources Division and State Information Technology Services Division. In addition, many agencies will be responsible for screening their data for privacy restrictions and providing data to the department for inclusion on the website.

The Department of Administration submitted the fiscal note. It includes the costs of an FTE, the cost of constructing the website, and database hosting fees to cover the costs of computer hardware and file storage. Just to avoid any possible confusion, these costs are not included in the Governor's budget.

There has been a lot of discussion regarding the costs of creating a transparency website. I can assure you the department has taken a very careful look at what it will cost to implement the website here in Montana. Without the funding identified in the fiscal note, we would not have the resources to undertake this responsibility.

I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.