



WASHINGTON UPDATE

444 N. Capitol Street NW, Suite 234 ♦ Washington, DC 20001 December 14, 2009

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House Oversight Committee Reauthorizes, Improves on Grants.gov

On Thursday, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee marked-up S. 303, the “Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 2009.” The bill, already approved by the Senate, reauthorizes Grants.gov, and sets out to improve some aspects of the system in the coming years. Of note, the bill would authorize the creation of a strategic plan, specifically requiring Grants.gov to

“...develop mechanisms to ensure compatibility between *Federal financial assistance administration systems and State systems* to facilitate the importing and exporting of data; developing common certifications and assurances, as appropriate, for all Federal financial assistance programs that have common or similar purposes, regardless of whether the Federal financial assistance programs are administered by different Federal agencies; and minimizing the number of different systems used to disburse Federal financial assistance.”

S. 303 can be found in the Bill Tracker
www.nasact.org.

Fiscal Task Force Releases Fact Sheet

On Wednesday, the Senate Budget Committee’s Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action released a detailed fact sheet, including goals and a mission statement. Some highlights are listed below:

- Its legislative recommendations will require expedited consideration by committees of jurisdiction, a super-majority vote in each House of Congress, and then Presidential approval to be enacted.
- Health care entitlements and Social Security will consume increasingly more fiscal resources – about 15 percent of GDP by 2031 under one scenario. The country has an outdated and inefficient revenue system that is incapable of meeting the needs. There is currently no plan in place to handle this looming crisis.
- The Task Force’s recommendations will be introduced as legislation by each chamber’s majority or minority leader, or their designees, no later than November 23, 2010.

The fact sheet can be found at
<http://budget.senate.gov/democratic/documents/2009/Bipartisan%20Fiscal%20Task%20Force%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>.

Georgia Testifies Before Senate Committee on Improving Government Performance

Brad Douglas, the commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services for the state of Georgia, supplied testimony on the subject of data-driven performance and the use of technology to deliver results to the Senate Budget Committee on Thursday. He highlighting several “lessons learned” as Georgia adopted and implemented customer-

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centric operations and policies. Mr. Douglas noted the following examples:

- DMV wait times within the state have dropped to under 10 minutes, on average, and are being constantly monitored.
- A complete overhaul of the state's procurement practices has resulted in the streamlined e-procurement portal, Team Georgia Marketplace, which has allowed agencies to go paperless in their requisition processes.
- Strategic sourcing has generated across-the-board savings in various areas, including administrative vehicles, police cruisers, and employee background checks (where cost savings on the checks ranged from 20 to 65 percent).

Bonds: Prospects for a U.S. Market Going Forward," has no panelist list at this time.

The House passed legislation last week that would extend a popular tax break for those individuals who live in states without an income tax. The legislation, H.R. 4213, would allow residents of those states without income taxes to deduct state and local taxes from their federal tax.

The hearing details and Mr. Douglas's testimony can be found at <http://budget.senate.gov/democratic/hearingstate.html>.

Other Key Events/Issues

The Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security will hold a hearing on Wednesday to discuss misuse of federal funds. The hearing, entitled "Tools to Combat Deficits and Waste: Enhanced Rescission Authority," has no listed panelists at this time.

On Tuesday, the House Financial Services Committee will look at "covered bonds." The hearing, entitled "Covered