

As Reported by the House Finance Committee

132nd General Assembly

Regular Session

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Am. H. B. No. 3

Representatives Duffey, Hagan

**Cosponsors: Representatives Vitale, Reineke, Hambley, Henne, Roegner,
Retherford, Bishoff, Brenner, Romanchuk**

A BILL

To enact sections 117.432, 117.58, 149.60, 149.61,
and 3375.03 of the Revised Code to create the
DataOhio Board, to specify requirements for
posting public records online, to require the
Auditor of State to adopt rules regarding a
uniform accounting system for public offices, to
establish an online catalog of public data at
data.Ohio.gov, to establish the Local Government
Information Exchange Grant Program, and to make
an appropriation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 117.432, 117.58, 149.60, 149.61,
and 3375.03 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 117.432. (A) The general assembly recognizes that
uniform accounting procedures and charts of accounts improve
financial management while maintaining the principle of home
rule over local matters. It is the intent of the general
assembly to facilitate the ability of the public easily to
compare public data generated by the state and other public

offices using this common language.

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(B) Within two years after the effective date of this
section, the auditor of state shall establish, by rule adopted
under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, appropriate uniform
accounting procedures and charts of accounts that may be used by
all public offices. Public offices that maintain their financial
records in accordance with the rules established by the auditor
of state under this section shall be declared by the auditor of
state to have earned a "DataOhio Transparency Award-Uniformity
of Accounting."

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(C) The auditor of state may use existing uniform
accounting procedures or charts of accounts, or may supplement
or amend existing uniform accounting procedures or charts of
accounts, to satisfy the requirements of division (B) of this
section.

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Sec. 117.58. (A) As used in this section:

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(1) "Open format" has the meaning defined in section
149.61 of the Revised Code.

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(2) "Public record" has the meaning defined in section
149.43 of the Revised Code.

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(B) (1) The auditor of state shall establish, administer,
and operate a web site to function as the state's primary online
catalog of public records and data sets of public records shared
for this purpose by any public office in the state. The web site
shall be registered as data.Ohio.gov. These public records and
data sets of public records shall be made available online and
in an open format, and may be cataloged through the use of
links, uploaded data files, streaming data, or other
technologies that allow convenient online public access. The web

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site may catalog or store original data or processed data, 48
including original public records and aggregated or summarized 49
content of data sets. 50

(2) The auditor of state shall consult with the state 51
librarian regarding the collection, aggregation, presentation, 52
and accessibility of data in relation to the web site. 53

(C) The auditor of state shall adopt rules under Chapter 54
119. of the Revised Code that specify policies and procedures 55
for the administration and operation of data.Ohio.gov. The rules 56
shall include a requirement that the auditor of state may not 57
charge a fee for access to public records or data sets of public 58
records at data.Ohio.gov. The auditor of state shall make every 59
effort to ensure that public records or data sets of public 60
records cataloged online at data.Ohio.gov are accessible online 61
in an open format. 62

Sec. 149.60. (A) As used in this section: 63

(1) "Local government" means bodies corporate and politic 64
responsible for governmental activities only in geographical 65
areas smaller than that of the state. 66

(2) "Open format" has the meaning defined in section 67
149.61 of the Revised Code. 68

(3) "Public record" has the meaning defined in section 69
149.43 of the Revised Code. 70

(B)(1) The general assembly recognizes that public-use 71
data from public offices offers an avenue toward open and 72
transparent government, stimulates business innovation, and can 73
help public offices become more effective. It is the intent of 74
the general assembly to facilitate the ability of the public 75
easily to find, download, and use public records and data sets 76

of public records that are generated and held by public offices. 77
With these goals in mind, the general assembly creates the 78
DataOhio board, which shall do all of the following: 79

(a) Recommend categories of public records that public 80
 offices should make available to the public online in an open 81
 format; 82

(b) Recommend technology standards for open data use in 83
 the state that reflect the most current standards used 84
 nationally and in other states; 85

(c) Recommend accounting standards for financial data of 86
 public offices to facilitate comparison across public offices 87
 and services; 88

(d) Recommend metadata definitional standards for 89
 nonfinancial data of public offices to facilitate comparison and 90
 use of this data across public offices; and 91

(e) Consider the participation and affiliation of 92
 data.Ohio.gov with data.gov, the official online data catalog of 93
 the United States government, and make a recommendation 94
 regarding this consideration. 95

(2) The DataOhio board shall deliver a report of its 96
 findings and recommendations to the general assembly and to the 97
 auditor of state not later than one year after the effective 98
 date of this section, and thereafter shall deliver to them a 99
 report of its findings and recommendations by the thirty-first 100
 day of March each year. 101

(C) The DataOhio board shall consist of the following 102
 members or their designees: 103

(1) The governor; 104

<u>(2) The attorney general;</u>	105
<u>(3) The auditor of state;</u>	106
<u>(4) The secretary of state;</u>	107
<u>(5) The treasurer of state;</u>	108
<u>(6) The speaker of the house of representatives;</u>	109
<u>(7) The president of the senate;</u>	110
<u>(8) One member who represents newspapers, to be appointed</u> <u>by the Ohio newspaper association;</u>	111 112
<u>(9) One member who represents businesses that use data</u> <u>sets of public records, to be appointed by the chairperson after</u> <u>the chairperson is selected;</u>	113 114 115
<u>(10) The chancellor of the Ohio board of regents;</u>	116
<u>(11) The state librarian;</u>	117
<u>(12) One member who represents data consumers, to be</u> <u>appointed by the chairperson after the chairperson is selected;</u>	118 119
<u>(13) One member who is an officer of a municipal</u> <u>corporation, to be appointed by the Ohio municipal league;</u>	120 121
<u>(14) One member who is an officer of a township, to be</u> <u>appointed by the Ohio township association;</u>	122 123
<u>(15) One member who is an officer of a county, to be</u> <u>appointed by the county commissioners association of Ohio;</u>	124 125
<u>(16) One member who represents nonprofit think tanks that</u> <u>use data sets of public records, to be appointed by the</u> <u>chairperson after the chairperson is selected; and</u>	126 127 128
<u>(17) One member who represents national organizations that</u>	129

encourage open government records, to be appointed by the 130
chairperson after the chairperson is selected. 131

The board also shall consist of one or more ex officio, 132
nonvoting members or their designees appointed by the 133
chairperson after the chairperson is selected. 134

(D) The state library of Ohio shall provide necessary 135
meeting facilities to the board. The initial meeting of the 136
board shall be held at the call of the state librarian and not 137
later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. 138
At its initial meeting, the board shall select a chairperson 139
from among its members. The chairperson shall select a member of 140
the board to serve as the board's secretary. 141

(E) The board shall meet at least ten times per year at 142
the call of the chairperson and shall provide reasonable notice 143
to the public before each meeting. The board shall designate a 144
portion of each meeting to be devoted to inviting suggestions 145
from the public regarding the provision of data sets of public 146
records by state agencies and local governments. 147

(F) The presence of a majority of the members of the board 148
constitutes a quorum for the conduct of its business. The 149
concurrence of at least a majority of the members of the board 150
is necessary for any action to be taken by the board. 151

(G) Members of the board shall serve without compensation 152
but shall be reimbursed for the actual and necessary expenses 153
they incur in the performance of their duties. 154

Sec. 149.61. (A) As used in this section: 155

(1) "Open format" means that a public record, or the data 156
contained in the public record, is capable of being searched, 157
viewed, and downloaded by the public, in an open, nonproprietary 158

format that is machine readable. 159

(2) "Public record" has the meaning defined in section 160
149.43 of the Revised Code. 161

(3) "Public records policy" means the policy required by 162
division (E) of section 149.43 of the Revised Code. 163

(B) A public office that posts a public record on its web 164
site, or on a public web site maintained or authorized by the 165
state, shall make its best efforts to post the public record in 166
an open format. 167

(C) A public office that opts in to posting public records 168
online in an open format shall include in the public office's 169
public records policy a statement indicating which public 170
records the public office posts in accordance with the 171
requirements of division (B) of this section. The public office 172
shall make its best effort to continue to post public records 173
online in an open format in accordance with its public records 174
policy. A public office shall submit to the DataOhio board, not 175
later than thirty days after amending its public records policy 176
regarding public records posted in accordance with the 177
requirements of division (B) of this section, the portion of its 178
public records policy that states which public records are so 179
posted. 180

(D) Nothing in this section requires a public office to 181
post public records to a web site or prohibits a public office 182
from opting out of posting public records online after opting 183
in. A public office's decision regarding which public records to 184
post in accordance with the requirements of division (B) of this 185
section, if any, is solely within the discretion of the public 186
office. A public office's decision in this regard is final and 187

may not be modified except by action of the public office. 188

Sec. 3375.03. (A) As used in this section: 189

(1) "Metropolitan planning organization" means a 190
metropolitan planning organization designated under 23 U.S.C. 191
134, as amended. 192

(2) "Open format" has the meaning defined in section 193
149.61 of the Revised Code. 194

(3) "Public record" has the meaning defined in section 195
149.43 of the Revised Code. 196

(B) There is hereby established the local government 197
information exchange grant program. The program shall be 198
administered by the state librarian. The state librarian shall 199
adopt rules under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code as are 200
necessary to administer the program. The rules shall include all 201
of the following: 202

(1) Grant eligibility criteria, which shall include a 203
requirement that a grantee be a county, township, municipal 204
corporation, or public library, or a regional planning 205
commission, metropolitan planning organization, or regional 206
council of governments, which may apply for a grant on behalf of 207
a county, township, municipal corporation, public library, or 208
group thereof, to assist them in meeting the requirements of 209
this section; 210

(2) Specifications for what data sets of public records 211
must be included by a county, township, municipal corporation, 212
or public library in order for the county, township, municipal 213
corporation, or public library to be eligible for a grant; 214

(3) A requirement that data satisfying the grant criteria 215

be posted on the internet by the county, township, municipal 216
corporation, or public library, in an open format; 217

(4) Specifications for consistent formatting and 218
technology standards for data satisfying the grant eligibility 219
criteria; 220

(5) Specifications for accounting standards for data 221
provided by a county, township, municipal corporation, or public 222
library; and 223

(6) A requirement that the data provided by a grantee be 224
provided in an open format that is compatible with, and able to 225
be published by the treasurer of state as part of, the Ohio 226
online checkbook or a similar program. 227

Required data may be different for counties, townships, 228
municipal corporations, or public libraries. 229

(C) The state librarian shall disburse a grant of ten 230
thousand dollars to each county, township, municipal 231
corporation, or public library that meets the grant eligibility 232
criteria established by the state librarian, or to a regional 233
planning commission, metropolitan planning organization, or 234
regional council of governments that applied for a grant on 235
behalf of a county, township, municipal corporation, public 236
library, or group thereof that meets the grant eligibility 237
criteria established by the state librarian. Grants shall be 238
awarded in the order in which a county, township, municipal 239
corporation, or public library has met the eligibility criteria. 240
The total amount of grants awarded shall not exceed the amount 241
that can be funded with appropriations made by the general 242
assembly for this purpose. 243

(D) Nothing in this section prohibits a grantee who 244

received a grant under this section from pooling the grant with 245
other grants received under this section by other grantees, to 246
assist them in meeting the requirements of this section or to 247
comply with section 149.61 of the Revised Code. 248

Section 2. All items in this section are hereby 249
appropriated as designated out of any moneys in the state 250
treasury to the credit of the General Revenue Fund. For all 251
appropriations made in this act, those in the first column are 252
for fiscal year 2018 and those in the second column are for 253
fiscal year 2019. The appropriations made in this act are in 254
addition to any other appropriations made for the FY 2018-FY 255
2019 biennium. 256

AUD AUDITOR OF STATE 257

GRF 070321 Operating Expenses	\$350,000	\$0	258
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Total GRF General Revenue Fund	\$350,000	\$0	259
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TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS	\$350,000	\$0	260
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DATAOHIO CHARTS OF ACCOUNTS 261

Of the foregoing appropriation item 070321, Operating 262
Expenses, up to \$350,000 in fiscal year 2018 shall be used to 263
develop uniform charts of accounts, establish uniform accounting 264
procedures, and adopt rules for their implementation by all 265
public offices. 266

Within the limits set forth in this act, the Director of 267
Budget and Management shall establish accounts indicating the 268
source and amount of funds for each appropriation made in this 269
act, and shall determine the form and manner in which 270
appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from 271
the appropriations contained in this act shall be accounted for 272

as though made in the main operating appropriations act of the	273
132nd General Assembly. The appropriations made in this act are	274
subject to all provisions of the main operating appropriations	275
act of the 132nd General Assembly that are generally applicable	276
to such appropriations.	277