

# House Bill 73 Business Case

DATE	9/02/2021
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PROJECT	HB73 Local Transparency



## PROJECT

The Office of the State Controller will provide uniform accounting, budgeting, and financial reporting procedures for counties, cities, urban renewal agencies, education providers, and all other local districts. The purpose of House Bill 73 is to enable local government entities and the SCO to provide comparable data hosted through a central registry and reporting portal to enhance public access to statewide financial data.

## MISSION

Transparency leads to more effective, accountable government and a more engaged community. Therefore, SCO will collaboratively create uniform accounting, budgeting, and financial reporting procedures of all state and local governmental entities.

To fully achieve the vision of government transparency, all levels of local government are encouraged to share their data through Transparent Idaho, ultimately making the site a clearinghouse of all spending of taxpayer funds in Idaho.

## SCOPE

Provide uniform accounting pursuant to section 67-1075, Idaho Code by means of the Uniform Accounting Manual.

- Develop, approve, monitor, and revise as needed the uniform accounting, budgeting, and financial reporting system and manual for local governmental entities, pursuant to section 67-1075, Idaho Code.

Provide a central registry and reporting portal for local governmental entities as outlined in 67-450B, Idaho Code.

- Create a public website for the reporting of local government entities' accounting, budgeting, and financial data in order to provide leaders, decision-makers, and citizens easy access to search, view, and compare data across the state.

## GOVERNANCE

The SCO Project Team and Committee is responsible for developing, implementing, monitoring, and updating a uniform accounting, budgeting, and financial reporting system and manual for local governmental entities. Committee stakeholders will meet on a consistent basis with meetings subject to open meeting laws. Possible agenda items for discussion each meeting may include: reviewing project progress, discussing budget and financial matters, assessing staffing needs, requesting an update on progress from other direct stakeholders, providing this committee with insightful feedback and/or direction, and reviewing and approving ongoing efforts towards the establishment of the Uniform Accounting Manual.

## DEFINITIONS

**Uniform Accounting Manual** - The singular document containing the state's standard guidance to all governmental entities to ensure that uniform accounting, budgeting, and financial reporting can be standardized.

**Central Registry** - Currently, an application created by LSO that local governmental entities use to report annual budget and audit information. SCO views central registry as the future tool to obtain the current budget and audit reports with intent to additionally obtain financial transactions of governmental entities as the singular depository capable of transparent transmission.

**Pilot Group** - Diligently selected school districts assisting in the initial efforts to display current and existing data while creating the path towards obtaining greater detail of financial data through efforts with numerous financial vendors. Diligently selected counties assisting in the initial efforts to streamline processes creating comparable budget data and financial data as reported to the central registry. Diligently selected cities assisting in the initial efforts to create budget standards and reporting standards allowing comparable data.

**Chart of Accounts** - A standardized listing of categories and accounts capable of capturing uniform financial transactions.