



# WASHINGTON UPDATE

444 N. Capitol Street NW, Suite 234 ♦ Washington, DC 20001 November 04, 2013

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### *President*

JAMES B. LEWIS  
State Treasurer  
New Mexico

### *First Vice President*

WILLIAM .G HOLLAND  
Auditor General  
Illinois

### *Second Vice President*

CALVIN McKELVOGUE  
Chief Operating Officer  
State Accounting Enterprise  
Iowa

### *Secretary*

RICHARD K. ELLIS  
State Treasurer  
Utah Office of the State Treasurer

### *Treasurer*

DEBORAH K. DAVENPORT  
Auditor General  
AZ Office of the Auditor General

### *Immediate Past President*

MARTIN J. BENISON  
Comptroller  
Massachusetts

## **DATA Act Goes Before Committee this Wednesday**

The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee will hold a business meeting this Wednesday, November 6 at 10:00 a.m. to move S. 994, the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act). The DATA Act expands USASpending.gov by establishing common data standards and reporting for federal funds in an effort to increase transparency and accessibility of federal contract and spending data. The Senate version of the DATA Act does not include the House language giving the U.S. Office of Management and Budget wide latitude to institute Recovery Act-type reporting for recipients at the conclusion of the pilot process.

The link to the meeting and the agenda can be found at

[www.hsgac.senate.gov/hearings/  
business-meeting-11/06/2013.](http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/hearings/business-meeting-11/06/2013)

## **House Committee Moves GRANT Act**

Last Tuesday, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee passed recently-introduced H.R. 3316, the Grant Reform and New Transparency Act of 2013 (GRANT Act) by a 19-15 vote. The bill, sponsored by Rep. James Lankford (R-OK) and co-sponsored by Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA), would expand grant reporting activities and requirements across federal agencies, as well as institute a “**plan for improving the Single Audit Process.**”

Specifically, the bill language states that:

- The director of the OMB shall upgrade any existing or proposed public website for finding federal grant opportunities and applying for such grants so that such website may serve as a central point of information and provide full access for applicants for competitive grants.
- Within 60 days after the end of the period for completion of the grant, the agency shall post on the grants website maintained under this section the following information:
  - The final report or other final written product required under the terms of the grant. Other related data or results of the grant that the agency considers to be of value to future researchers or in the public interest.
  - 180 days after the date of the enactment of the act, the comptroller general shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the federal grants workforce, indicating the size of the federal grants workforce and expected trends in federal employment; adequacy of training opportunities for the federal grants workforce; and

# WASHINGTON UPDATE *(page 2)*

444 N. Capitol Street NW, Suite 234 ♦ Washington, DC 20001 November 04, 2013

## WASHINGTON STAFF

TANYA GRAYSON  
Administrative Assistant/  
Website Coordinator  
tgrayson@nasact.org

NEAL HUTCHKO  
Policy Analyst  
Nhutchko@nasact.org

CORNELIA CHEBINOU  
Washington Director  
cchebinou@nasact.org

## NASACT Washington Office

444 N. Capitol Street NW  
Suite 234  
Washington, DC 20001

p: (202) 624-5451  
f: (202) 624-5473

the use by executive agencies of suspension and debarment actions taken against grantees during the three-year period preceding the date of submission of the report.

- 180 days after the date of the enactment of the act, the director of the OMB shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a plan on improving the single audit process that includes a centralized federal government oversight structure for the single audit process to monitor federal agency implementation of single audit requirements; a simplified alternative single audit requirements for non-federal entities with expenditures for smaller federal awards; a proposal to shorten the single audit cycle, including the time periods for completing the audit and for executive agency resolution of the audit; and an identification of any necessary legislative changes to implement any proposal under the plan.

## Health Insurance Exchanges on the Schedule in the Senate

The Senate Finance Committee will hold a hearing on the health insurance exchanges created by the Affordable Care Act this Wednesday, November 6. No state government witnesses are on the schedule, but Kathleen Sebelius, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, is slated to testify.

Hearing video and testimony will be found at

[www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=3dd91089-5056-a032-5290-f158359b9247](http://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=3dd91089-5056-a032-5290-f158359b9247).

There is currently no companion legislation in the Senate. Full text of the GRANT Act can be found at <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr3316/text>.