



Washington Update



EXPANDED IMPROPER PAYMENTS BILL PICKS UP MOMENTUM

A bill to expand existing efforts to identify and prevent improper payments to dead people has advanced through the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. The Improper Payments Coordination Act (S. 614), sponsored by Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE), would allow the use of the Do Not Pay Program by the Judicial and Legislative Branches, as well as state government agencies that manage federal programs. In addition, the Treasury Department would be tasked with expanding its anti-waste and fraud analytics. Committee Chairman Ron Johnson (R-WI) stated: “The legislation will help

ensure the integrity of federal payments to companies and individuals and will prevent the government from wasting taxpayer money and get us closer to ending subsidies to dead people.”

A chronology of the various incarnations of the Improper Payments Acts can be found at www.carper.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=eeff5999-aec4-4357-97fb-db4c7fccb42e.

TREASURY, IRS SEEK INPUT ON PRIORITY GUIDANCE PLAN

The U.S. Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service are seeking recommendations for items that should be on their 2015-2016 Priority Guidance Plan. The Treasury Department’s Office of Tax Policy and the IRS use the Priority Guidance Plan each year to identify and prioritize the tax issues that should be addressed through regulations, revenue rulings, revenue procedures, notices and other published administrative guidance. The 2015-2016 Priority Guidance Plan will identify guidance projects that the Treasury Department and the IRS intend to work on actively as priorities during the period from July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016.

In reviewing recommendations and selecting projects for inclusion on the 2015-

2016 Priority Guidance Plan, the Treasury Department and the IRS will consider whether the recommended guidance:



- Resolves significant issues relevant to many taxpayers.
- Promotes sound tax administration.
- Can be drafted in a manner that will enable taxpayers to easily understand and apply the guidance
- Involves regulations that are outmoded, ineffective, insufficient or excessively burdensome and that should be modified, streamlined, expanded or repealed.
- Can be administered by the IRS on a uniform basis.
- Reduces controversy and lessens the burden on taxpayers or the IRS.

Please submit recommendations by May 1, 2015. Comments may be mailed to: Internal Revenue Service, Attn: CC:PA:LPD:PR (Notice 2015-27), Room 5203, P.O. Box 7604, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, D.C. 20044

Comments may also be submitted electronically via the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov (type IRS-2015-0008 in the search field on the regulations.gov home page to find the notice and submit comments). All recommendations for guidance submitted by the public in response to this notice will be available for public inspection and copying in their entirety.

For further information regarding this notice, contact Emily M. Lesniak of the Office of Associate Chief Counsel (Procedure and Administration) at (202) 317-3400.

GSA/HHS TO CONDUCT NATIONAL DIALOGUE AND PILOT ON DATA ACT

The Chief Acquisition Officers Council, General Services Administration (GSA), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are sponsoring a dialogue and pilot to identify clear recommendations for standardizing grant and contractor awardee reporting, eliminating duplicative and/or unnecessary reporting, and reducing awardee compliance costs. The webinar is part of the outreach for the DATA Act Section 5 Pilot Team intended to further discuss the DATA Act Section 5 Pilot. This online event will be held on April 1, 2015 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Eastern time.

The open dialogue is iterative; participants will be asked to weigh in on ideas that will be applied in a pilot and will be asked to again weigh in on the next iteration of ideas. Participation in the dialogue will provide federal contract and grant recipient organizations a unique opportunity to guide the future of the government-wide implementation of the DATA Act. Attendees will learn the background and goals of the DATA Act Section 5 Pilot, expected outcomes, and participant opportunities and requirements. The event also will address commonly asked questions about the pilot.

Lora Kutkat, grants lead for the DATA Act Section 5 Pilot and Christopher Zeleznik, communications lead for the pilot, will lead the discussion. Please register online for this informative and interactive event.

A recording and documentation from the event will be posted to the Outreach section of www.grants.gov following the event.

Please send any questions regarding the DATA Act Session 5 Pilot webinar to Emily Gartland at emily.gartland@gsa.gov.

THE WEEK AHEAD: THE SEC AGENDA

On Tuesday, the House Financial Services Committee will hold a hearing to examine the Securities and Exchange Commission's Agenda, Operations and FY 2016 Budget Request.

- <http://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=398795>

WASHINGTON STAFF

CORNELIA CHEBINOU
Washington Director
cchebinou@nasact.org

NEAL HUTCHKO
Policy Analyst
nhutchko@nasact.org

TANYA GRAYSON
Administrative Assistant
tgrayson@nasact.org

National Association of State
Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers

HEADQUARTERS OFFICE

449 Lewis Hargett Circle, Suite 290
Lexington, KY 40503-3590
P (859) 276-1147, F (859) 278-0507

WASHINGTON OFFICE

444 N. Capitol Street, NW, Suite 234
Washington, DC 20001
P (202) 624-5451, F (202) 624-5473

www.nasact.org

For more information on this newsletter's content, contact Cornelia Chebinou at cchebinou@nasact.org or (202) 624-5451.

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