



**News from**  
State Representative Franco Coladipietro

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**Coladipietro Calls for Transparent Government**  
*Web Portal Would Shed Sunshine on State Finances*

**Springfield**...On the cusp of a national press movement known as Sunshine Week, State Representative Franco Coladipietro along with other House Republican members and taxpayer watchdog group, Americans for Prosperity highlighted the successful passage of sweeping transparency legislation during a press conference at the Illinois Capitol today.

“Unfortunately, we live in a state known for its political scandals whether its investigations into practices by the City of Chicago or our own Governor Blagojevich,” Coladipietro said. “This is good government legislation because it makes the government directly accountable to the taxpayers of this state. This legislation tells the residents of my district what state government is doing with their money and where the money is going.”

Co-sponsored by Representative Coladipietro, House Bill 4765 will create the Illinois Accountability Portal and require the Department of Central Management Services to create a transparent website with information regarding state expenditures, tax credits, state employee salaries and state contracts. Rep. Coladipietro was joined by the bill’s chief sponsor, State Representative Mike Tryon (R-Crystal Lake) and other Republican and Democrat colleagues who offered bi-partisan support for this good government bill.

This legislation was suggested by Americans for Prosperity, a grassroots activist organization leading the charge for transparency in Illinois and throughout the nation. Additionally, House Bill 4765 has garnered widespread support from several grassroots organizations, trade associations, press associations, and taxpayer protection groups.

“With assistance from a bi-partisan group of lawmakers and a wide ranging coalition of national and local organizations, we are hopeful that the Senate will see the wisdom in passing HB4765. Last year, under the leadership of Senators Barack Obama and Tom Coburn, Congress passed a law that created a similar searchable website. Frankly, if transparency was good enough for Senator Obama and Congress then it should be good enough for Illinois lawmakers,” said Joe Calomino, state director for Americans for Prosperity.

Last year, the House unanimously approved House Bill 3 which would have required the Governor's Office of Management and Budget to establish a similar website with information concerning each entity that receives Illinois funding. Despite repeated requests, the bill was never called for a vote in the Senate.

Specifically, the Illinois Accountability Portal would provide the public with direct access to:

- **State Employees & Consultants**: a database of all current state employees and individual consultants, sorted separately by name, agency, position title, current pay rate and year-to-date pay
- **State Expenditures**: a database of all current state expenditures, sorted separately by agency, category, customer and representative district
- **Tax Credits**: a database of all current state tax credits, sorted by tax credit category, customer and representative district
- **Sales Tax Breaks**: a database of all revocations and suspensions of state occupation and use tax certificates of registration and state professional licenses sorted by name, geographic location and certificate of registration number or license number, as applicable. Professional licenses revocations and suspensions shall be posted only if resulting from a failure to pay taxes, license fees, or child support.
- **State Contracts**: a database of all current state contracts, sorted separately by contractor name, awarding officer or agency, contract value, and goods or services provided.

“It’s time for government to operate in the light of day and finally put an end to the “pay to play” politics that has flourished under this administration,” said Coladipietro. “I am very proud of this legislation and my hope is that Senate President Jones will immediately call for a vote on this very important piece of legislation.”

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