

# S1840

**S1840** - Authorizes public access to government records through government website. (No companion bill in the Assembly.)

The bill is on the Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee meeting agenda for Monday, November 16, 2015 at 1:00 PM in Committee Room 7, 2nd Floor, State House Annex, Trenton New Jersey.

## CONTACT:

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## **STATEMENT BY NJFOG:**

NJFOG supports S-1840 amended to include language that strengthens it, as follows. The bill says a records custodian can fulfill his or her obligation to respond to an OPRA request by directing the requestor to the public agency's website. The bill needs to be amended to specifically say that the referral must contain either the specific link to the specific document or the specific link to the page that in turn contains a listing of links to specific documents.

NOTE: It is not uncommon for a custodian to direct a requestor to a website for a particular record(s) without telling the requestor where to find it. This often requires the requestor to search not only through what may be an unfamiliar website, but through many records as well. There is no uniform format for the websites of local governments, and some websites are not well organized, making the search process difficult. That is why it's necessary for a custodian to provide the "specific link to the specific document or the specific link to the page that in turn contains a listing of links to specific documents," as noted in our statement.