

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1403

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to requiring the Texas State Library and Archives  
3 Commission and the Department of Information Resources to establish  
4 a searchable database for grants awarded by state agencies.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 441, Government Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 441.010 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 441.010. ELECTRONICALLY SEARCHABLE CENTRAL GRANT  
9 DATABASE. (a) In this section:

10 (1) "Department" means the Department of Information  
11 Resources.

12 (2) "Grant" means a grant, contract, or other  
13 cooperative agreement under which a state agency awards financial  
14 assistance in the form of money, property, a loan, or another thing  
15 of value to a governmental or nongovernmental entity and the  
16 governmental or nongovernmental entity receiving the award is  
17 responsible for implementing a state or federal program in  
18 accordance with guidelines provided by the agency awarding the  
19 grant. The term does not include a contract to obtain a  
20 professional or consulting service subject to Chapter 2254.

21 (b) The commission, in cooperation with the department,  
22 shall establish an electronically searchable central database  
23 accessible through the commission's on-line access system that will  
24 allow a person to:

1           (1) use keyword searches to discover all available  
2 state agency grant opportunities;

3           (2) obtain basic information regarding each available  
4 state agency grant opportunity, including basic information about  
5 the program that the grant recipient will implement, the geographic  
6 area in which the grant recipient will implement the program, the  
7 eligibility requirements for obtaining the grant, and the grant  
8 application process; and

9           (3) electronically link to the portion of the granting  
10 agency's website at which the person may obtain more detailed  
11 information about each available state agency grant opportunity.

12           (c) The department shall provide a link on TexasOnline to  
13 the database established under Subsection (b). In this subsection,  
14 "TexasOnline" has the meaning assigned by Section 2054.003.

15           (d) Each state agency that will award a grant shall,  
16 concurrently with any other action the agency takes to inform the  
17 public or any person about the grant opportunity, report to the  
18 commission information related to the grant that the commission  
19 requires in a form prescribed by the commission so that the  
20 commission may include information about the grant in the  
21 electronically searchable central database established under  
22 Subsection (b).

23           (e) The governor shall appoint an advisory committee  
24 composed of nine representatives from the Electronic Grants  
25 Technical Assistance Workgroup to:

26           (1) gather input from public and other users of the  
27 database; and

1           (2) advise the commission regarding the development of  
2 the database and regarding the commission's exercise of its powers  
3 under Subsection (d).

4           (f) The advisory committee appointed under Subsection (e)  
5 shall meet in Austin. A state agency that is represented on the  
6 committee by a person who is not based in the Austin area is  
7 responsible for any travel expenses incurred by its representative.

8           (g) The commission shall appoint an advisory committee  
9 composed of five public members to annually evaluate the operation  
10 of the electronically searchable central database.

11           (h) Chapter 2110 does not apply to an advisory committee  
12 formed under this section.

13           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.