

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1403

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to requiring the Department of Information Resources to  
3 establish an electronically searchable central database for all  
4 grants that will be awarded by a state agency.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 2054, Government Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 2054.065 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 2054.065. ELECTRONICALLY SEARCHABLE CENTRAL GRANT  
9 DATABASE. (a) In this section, "grant" means a grant, contract, or  
10 cooperative agreement under which a state agency awards financial  
11 assistance in the form of money, property, a loan, or another thing  
12 of value to a governmental or nongovernmental entity and the  
13 governmental or nongovernmental entity receiving the award is  
14 responsible for implementing a state or federal program in  
15 accordance with guidelines provided by the agency awarding the  
16 grant. The term does not include a contract to obtain a professional  
17 or consulting service subject to Chapter 2254.

18 (b) The department shall establish an electronically  
19 searchable central database accessible through TexasOnline that  
20 will allow a person to:

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

23 (2) obtain basic information regarding each available  
24 state agency grant opportunity, including basic information about

1 the program that the grant recipient will implement, the geographic  
2 area in which the grant recipient will implement the program, the  
3 eligibility requirements for obtaining the grant, and the grant  
4 application process; and

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

8 (c) Each state agency that will award a grant shall,  
9 concurrently with any other action the agency takes to inform the  
10 public or any person about the grant opportunity, report to the  
11 department information related to the grant that the department  
12 requires in a form prescribed by the department so that the  
13 department may include information about the grant in the  
14 electronically searchable central database in accordance with  
15 Subsection (b).

16 (d) The department and the office of the governor jointly  
17 shall appoint an advisory committee composed of representatives of  
18 nine state agencies to advise the department regarding the  
19 development of the electronically searchable central database and  
20 regarding the department's exercise of its powers under Subsection  
21 (c). The department shall perform the duties imposed by Sections  
22 2110.005-2110.008 regarding the advisory committee. The advisory  
23 committee shall meet in Austin. A state agency that is represented  
24 on the committee by a person who is not based in the Austin area is  
25 responsible for any travel expenses incurred by its representative.

26 (e) The department and the office of the governor jointly  
27 shall appoint an advisory committee composed of five public members

1 to annually evaluate the operation of the electronically searchable  
2 central database. The department shall perform the duties imposed  
3 by Sections 2110.004-2110.008 regarding the advisory committee.

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