

Amend CSHB 1516 by adding the following appropriately numbered section to Article 1 of the bill and renumbering subsequent sections of Article 1 accordingly:

SECTION 1._____. Subchapter B, Chapter 2170, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 2170.061 to read as follows:

Sec. 2170.061. ACQUISITION WITHOUT COMPETITIVE BID; USE OF CERTAIN DISASTER-RELATED NETWORK AND STATEWIDE TECHNOLOGY CENTERS.

(a) In this section, "network" means the Lonestar Education and Research Network or its successor.

(b) The department may acquire telecommunications services from the network without competitive bids for a purpose described by this section.

(c) The department may use the network only as provided by this section.

(d) During an emergency, including a single node failure or a system-wide failure of the consolidated telecommunications system established under this chapter, the department may divert telecommunications services traffic to the network to avoid service interruption. After resolution of the emergency and on a determination that the consolidated telecommunications system is operational, the telecommunications services traffic must be diverted back to the consolidated telecommunications system.

(e) The department may also use the network to transfer data that is not time sensitive to or from a statewide technology center established and operated by the department under Subchapter L, Chapter 2054.

Amendment No. 4 was adopted.