

AN ACT

relating to creating a TexasOnline project concerning grant assistance provided by state agencies.

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

SECTION 1. Subdivision (1), Section 2055.001, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(1) "Board," "department," "electronic government project," "executive director," "local government," "major information resources project," "quality assurance team," and "TexasOnline" have the meanings assigned by Section 2054.003.

SECTION 2. Chapter 2055, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter E to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER E. GRANTS ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Sec. 2055.201. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "state grant assistance" means assistance provided by a state agency that is available to a resident of this state, another state agency, a local government, or a nonprofit or faith-based organization, including a grant, contract, loan, loan guarantee, cooperative agreement, or direct appropriation, property, or another method of disbursement.

Sec. 2055.202. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROJECT. The department shall establish an electronic government project to develop an Internet website accessible through TexasOnline that:

(1) provides a single location for state agencies to

1 post electronic summaries of state grant assistance opportunities
2 with the state agencies;

3 (2) enables a person to search for state grant
4 assistance programs provided by state agencies;

5 (3) allows, when feasible, electronic submission of
6 state grant assistance applications;

7 (4) improves the effectiveness and performance of
8 state grant assistance programs;

9 (5) streamlines and simplifies state grant assistance
10 application and reporting processes; and

11 (6) improves the delivery of services to the public.

12 Sec. 2055.203. ESTABLISHING AND OPERATING PROJECT;
13 COORDINATION. (a) In establishing and operating the electronic
14 government project under this subchapter, the department, in
15 coordination with the office of the governor, shall direct,
16 coordinate, and assist state agencies in establishing and using:

17 (1) a common electronic application and reporting
18 system, including:

19 (A) a standard format for announcing state grant
20 assistance opportunities;

21 (B) standard data elements for use in creating
22 state grant assistance opportunity announcement summaries,
23 including existing electronic grants programs and search
24 functions; and

25 (C) a common application form for a person to use
26 in applying for state grant assistance from multiple state grant
27 assistance programs that serve similar purposes and are

1 administered by different state agencies; and

2 (2) an interagency process for:

3 (A) improving interagency and intergovernmental
4 coordination of information collection and sharing of data between
5 persons responsible for delivering services relating to a state
6 grant assistance program; and

7 (B) improving the timeliness, completeness, and
8 quality of information received by a state agency from a recipient
9 of state grant assistance.

10 (b) A state agency shall provide the department and the
11 office of the governor financial and functional information about
12 any existing or potential systems that in any way provide the
13 functions described in Section 2055.202.

14 Sec. 2055.204. USE OF ELECTRONIC GRANT SYSTEM. (a) A
15 state agency may not expend appropriated money to implement or
16 design a new system that provides the functions described in
17 Section 2055.202 without obtaining prior approval from the
18 executive director.

19 (b) The executive director shall determine whether to
20 approve a state agency's continued operation of an existing system
21 or to integrate the system into the project created under this
22 subchapter. The executive director may provide conditional
23 approval of ongoing expenditures while developing appropriate
24 project plans and funding models for the project.

25 (c) A state agency shall incorporate common grant
26 application forms developed under Section 2055.203 into the
27 agency's grant application and review processes.

1 (d) If the department determines that money should be
2 consolidated in the development of this project, the department
3 shall provide a funding model to the Legislative Budget Board and
4 the governor as required by Section 2055.057. A state agency with
5 an existing system approved or conditionally approved under
6 Subsection (b) is exempt from this subsection.

7 Sec. 2055.205. EXEMPT AGENCIES. (a) The executive
8 director may exempt a state agency or state grant assistance
9 program from the requirements of this subchapter if the executive
10 director determines that the state agency does not have a
11 sufficient number of state grant assistance programs.

12 (b) The governor, with the assistance of the department,
13 shall make a list of exempted agencies and information about
14 programs exempted from this subchapter available to the public
15 through the office of the governor's Internet website.

16 SECTION 3. Subsection (b), Section 2055.204, Government
17 Code, as added by this Act, does not apply to a state agency that
18 operates an existing system until the project created under
19 Subchapter E, Chapter 2055, Government Code, as added by this Act,
20 is operational.

21 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1002 passed the Senate on April 21, 2005, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1002 passed the House on May 25, 2005, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor