

By: Alvarado

H.B. No. 1156

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the establishment of an electronic information and
3 application system for state and local incentives for economic
4 development purposes.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subtitle G, Title 10, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Chapter 2301 to read as follows:

8 CHAPTER 2301. ELECTRONIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES

9 INFORMATION AND APPLICATION SYSTEM

10 Sec. 2301.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

11 (1) "Department," "electronic government project,"
12 "local government," and "state electronic Internet portal" have the
13 meanings assigned by Section 2054.003.

14 (2) "Monetary incentive" means a grant, loan, or other
15 form of monetary incentive paid from state or local government
16 revenues that a business entity may receive in exchange for or as a
17 result of conducting an activity with an economic development
18 purpose.

19 (3) "State agency" means a department, commission,
20 board, office, council, authority, or other state agency in the
21 executive branch of state government.

22 (4) "Tax incentive" means any exemption, deduction,
23 credit, exclusion, waiver, rebate, discount, deferral, or other
24 abatement or reduction of state or local government tax liability

1 of a business entity that the business entity may receive in
2 exchange for or as a result of conducting an activity with an
3 economic development purpose.

4 Sec. 2301.002. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROJECT. The department
5 shall establish an electronic government project to develop an
6 Internet website accessible through the state electronic Internet
7 portal that:

8 (1) provides a single location that a business entity
9 considering relocating to or expanding in this state may use to
10 receive information relating to state and local government monetary
11 and tax incentives for which the entity may be qualified;

12 (2) includes an interactive tool that allows a
13 business entity to:

14 (A) determine whether the entity may be eligible
15 for any state or local government monetary or tax incentive in this
16 state; and

17 (B) receive an estimate of the state and local
18 government monetary and tax incentives for which the entity may be
19 eligible;

20 (3) allows, when feasible, the business entity to fill
21 out one application for all state and local government monetary and
22 tax incentives for which the entity may be eligible; and

23 (4) allows, when feasible, for the application to be
24 submitted to each state agency or local government that offers the
25 monetary or tax incentive for which the business entity may be
26 eligible.

27 Sec. 2301.003. ESTABLISHING AND OPERATING PROJECT;

1 COORDINATION. In establishing and operating the electronic
2 government project under this chapter, the department, in
3 coordination with the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office
4 and the comptroller, and with the assistance of officials of local
5 governments, shall direct, coordinate, and assist state agencies
6 and local governments in establishing and using:

7 (1) a common electronic application and reporting
8 system, including:

9 (A) a standard format for announcing monetary and
10 tax incentive opportunities;

11 (B) standard data elements for use in creating
12 monetary and tax incentive opportunity announcement summaries,
13 including existing monetary and tax incentives and search
14 functions; and

15 (C) a common application form for a person to use
16 in applying for a monetary or tax incentive from multiple state
17 agencies and local governments; and

18 (2) a process for:

19 (A) improving interagency and intergovernmental
20 coordination of information collection and sharing of data relating
21 to monetary and tax incentives; and

22 (B) improving the timeliness, completeness, and
23 quality of applications received by a state agency or local
24 government for monetary and tax incentives.

25 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.