

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R3463 JRD-D

S.B. 801
By: Ellis
State Affairs
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As Filed

DIGEST

In 1997, the legislature instructed the Department of Information Resources to develop a biennial state strategic plan for overseeing technological developments, including the use of technology to improve access to public information. Taxpayers continue to be frustrated with Texas' fragmented approach in providing such services. This bill would require state agencies to develop on-line access to public information.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 801 requires state agencies to make certain information electronically accessible through the Internet.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 2001A, Government Code, by adding Section 2001.006, as follows:

Sec. 2001.006. CERTAIN EXPLANATORY INFORMATION MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH INTERNET. Requires each agency to make its rules and interpretations of its rules available through a generally accessible Internet site. Authorizes a state agency to comply with this section through the actions of another agency.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 2054.096, Government Code, to provide that a state agency that receives information by form or money from members of the public or from regulated person, to develop a plan for receiving such forms or money through the Internet. Requires the Department of Information Resources (department) to assist state agencies in developing the plan which must include security measures, performance measures and a timetable for implementation.

SECTION 3. Amends Chapter 2054F, Government Code, by adding Section 2054.121, as follows:

Sec. 2054.121. LINKING AND INDEXING INTERNET SITES. Requires state agencies to cooperate in linking generally accessible Internet sites among agencies to link concurrently needed information. Requires state agencies maintaining Internet sites to establish the site in a location easily located by electronic means. Requires the department to assist agencies in compliance with this section.

SECTION 4. Requires state agencies to phase in the changes in the law made by this Act regarding information available on the Internet.

SECTION 5. Emergency clause.
Effective date: upon passage.