

1 H.386

2 Introduced by Representative Atkins of Winooski

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Taxation and finance; budget; grant report

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require the department of finance
7 and management to publish an annual report on its website regarding all grants
8 issued by executive branch agencies in the preceding calendar year.

9 An act relating to requiring the Department of Finance and Management to
10 annually publish on its website a report on grants issued by executive
11 branch agencies

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

14 The general assembly finds that:

15 (1) State government needs to be accountable; and the public needs to
16 be able to review who receives federal and state grants and how those grants
17 are expended.

18 (2) In order for government to be held accountable for spending public
19 monies, the public must be able to examine freely and openly the records of
20 that spending consistent with Chapter I, Article 6 of the Constitution of the
21 State of Vermont.

1 (3) Officers of state government are trustees and servants of the people,
2 and it is in the public interest to enable any person to review and criticize their
3 decisions even though that review may cause inconvenience or embarrassment.

4 (4) Millions of dollars of state funds and of federal funds entrusted to
5 the state are annually distributed by grants or otherwise to entities outside state
6 government including nonprofit organizations, community-based groups, and
7 local governments in order to accomplish public goals.

8 (5) For state government to be held accountable for the use of these
9 monies, the public must easily have the ability to know who is receiving these
10 funds and for what purpose.

11 Sec. 2. 32 V.S.A. § 313 is added to read:

12 § 313. GRANT REPORT

13 (a) Annually, beginning January 15, 2010, the department of finance and
14 management shall publish on its website a report on all grants made by each
15 executive branch agency in the preceding calendar year. The report shall be
16 formatted as a table and shall include:

17 (1) An identification number or code for each grant issued by an agency;

18 (2) The name and address of every applicant for each grant;

19 (3) The name and address of the ultimate recipient of grant monies;

20 (4) A description of the purpose or use of the grant;

21 (5) The amount of the grant; and

1 (6) Whether the agency acquired the grant funds from a federal or a state
2 funding source.

3 (b) Grant reports issued under this section shall be public records available
4 for inspection and review.

5 (c) For the purposes of this section, “grant” means any funds distributed by
6 a state agency, including any funds distributed by an agency of the federal
7 government to a state agency that are then redistributed by that state agency.