

S.38

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

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

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The general assembly finds that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

§ 313. GRANT REPORT

(a) Annually, beginning January 31, 2010, the department of finance and management shall publish on its website a report on all grants of federal monies made by each executive branch agency in the preceding calendar year. The report shall be formatted as a table and shall include, for each grant issued after October 1, 2008:

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

(2) The name and address of the subrecipient of the federal grant;

(3) A description of the purpose or use of the grant;

(4) The amount of the grant; and

(5) The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for each federal grant.

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

(c) For the purposes of this section, “grant” means a legally enforceable agreement between an agency (grantor) and a recipient or subrecipient (grantee) to carry out a purpose as defined in that agreement.

Sec. 3. 32 V.S.A. § 314 is added to read:

§ 314. GRANT REPORT

(a) Annually, beginning January 31, 2015, the department of finance and management shall publish on its website a report on all grants of federal and state monies made by each executive branch agency in the preceding calendar year. The report shall be formatted as a table and shall include, for each grant:

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

(2) The name and address of the recipient or subrecipient of the state or federal grant;

(3) A description of the purpose or use of the grant;

(4) The amount of the grant; and

(5) The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for each federal grant.

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

(c) For the purposes of this section, “grant” means a legally enforceable agreement between an agency (grantor) and a recipient or subrecipient (grantee) to carry out a purpose as defined in that agreement.

Sec. 4. REPEAL

Sec. 2, 32 V.S.A. § 313 (department of finance and management report on federal grants), shall be repealed on July 1, 2014.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

Sec. 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2014.