

By the Committee on Fiscal Policy; and Senator Avila

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to statutorily required reports;  
3       amending s. 286.001, F.S.; defining the term "state  
4       entity"; revising the procedure for filing statutorily  
5       required or authorized reports; deleting provisions  
6       requiring that abstracts be filed for statutorily  
7       required or authorized reports; requiring state  
8       entities to redact exempt or confidential and exempt  
9       information from reports before filing; providing that  
10      the Division of Library and Information Services of  
11      the Department of State or the department, or any  
12      contractor thereof, is not responsible for redaction  
13      and may not be held liable for the failure of a state  
14      entity to redact exempt or confidential and exempt  
15      information from its reports; requiring state entities  
16      to submit a specified accompanying statement  
17      identifying the applicable provisions for such  
18      redactions; requiring the state entity to retain or  
19      archive reports in accordance with certain schedules;  
20      requiring the division to compile and annually update  
21      a list of all statutorily required reports and their  
22      submission dates; requiring the division to publish  
23      such list on the department's website; requiring the  
24      division to compile, beginning on a specified date,  
25      bibliographic information on received reports in a  
26      specified system; requiring the division to update the  
27      bibliographic information on a quarterly basis;  
28      requiring that the bibliographic information be  
29      distributed quarterly to the Governor and the

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30 Legislature, beginning on a specified date; providing  
31 legislative findings and intent; requiring the  
32 division to implement and maintain a publicly  
33 available, Internet-based system for such reports by a  
34 specified date; specifying features and functions for  
35 such system; deleting a provision requiring state  
36 entities to create, store, manage, update, retrieve,  
37 and disseminate statutorily required or authorized  
38 reports in an electronic format; deleting a provision  
39 related to construction; providing an appropriation;  
40 providing an effective date.

41  
42 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

43  
44 Section 1. Section 286.001, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
45 read:

46 286.001 Reports statutorily required; filing, maintenance,  
47 retrieval, and provision of copies.—

48 (1) For purposes of this section, the term "state entity"  
49 means any agency or officer of the executive, legislative, or  
50 judicial branch of state government, the State Board of  
51 Education, the Board of Governors of the State University  
52 System, the Public Service Commission, or a water management  
53 district operating under the authority of chapter 373.

54 (2) A state entity ~~Unless otherwise specifically provided~~  
55 ~~by law, any agency or officer of the executive, legislative, or~~  
56 ~~judicial branches of state government, the State Board of~~  
57 ~~Education, the Board of Governors of the State University~~  
58 ~~System, or the Public Service Commission~~ required or authorized

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59 by law to make a regular or periodic report ~~reports regularly or~~  
60 ~~periodically~~ shall fulfill the requirement to submit the report  
61 by electronically filing ~~such requirement by filing an abstract~~  
62 ~~of the report with the statutorily or administratively~~  
63 ~~designated recipients of the report and an abstract and one copy~~  
64 of the report with the Division of Library and Information  
65 Services of the Department of State, ~~unless the head of the~~  
66 ~~reporting entity makes a determination that the additional cost~~  
67 ~~of providing the entire report to the statutorily or~~  
68 ~~administratively designated recipients is justified. A one-page~~  
69 ~~summary justifying the determination shall be submitted to the~~  
70 ~~chairs of the governmental operations committees of both houses~~  
71 ~~of the Legislature. The abstract of the contents of such report~~  
72 ~~shall be no more than one-half page in length. The actual report~~  
73 must ~~shall~~ be retained by the reporting agency or officer, and  
74 copies of the report must ~~shall~~ be provided to interested  
75 parties and the statutorily or administratively designated  
76 recipients of the report upon request.

77 (a) A state entity that submits a report pursuant to this  
78 section is solely responsible for redacting any portion of the  
79 report which is not subject to public inspection. The division  
80 or the department, or any contractor thereof, is not responsible  
81 for and may not be held liable for the failure of a state entity  
82 to redact exempt or confidential and exempt information from its  
83 reports.

84 (b) If a report is redacted, the state entity submitting  
85 the report must provide to the division an accompanying  
86 statement that identifies the specific statutory basis for the  
87 redaction.

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88 (3) The state entity shall retain or archive each report in  
89 accordance with the applicable records retention schedule.

90 (4)(2) With respect to reports statutorily required of  
91 state entities agencies or officers within the executive,  
92 legislative, or judicial branches of state government, the State  
93 Board of Education, the Board of Governors of the State  
94 University System, or the Public Service Commission, it is the  
95 duty of the division, in addition to its duties under s. 257.05,  
96 to:

97 (a) By November 1, 2023, with assistance from the state  
98 entities, compile a list of statutorily required reports and  
99 their submission dates. The division shall update this list by  
100 each November 1 thereafter. The division shall publish the list  
101 on the Department of State's publicly accessible website  
102 Regularly compile and update bibliographic information on such  
103 reports for distribution as provided in paragraph (b). Such  
104 bibliographic information may be included in the bibliographies  
105 prepared by the division pursuant to s. 257.05(3).

106 (b) Beginning January 1, 2024, compile bibliographic  
107 information on each statutorily required report it receives for  
108 publication in the system implemented and maintained under  
109 subsection (5). The division shall update the bibliographic  
110 information on a quarterly basis. The bibliographic information  
111 may be included in the bibliographies prepared by the division  
112 pursuant to s. 257.05(3).

113 (c) Beginning April 15, 2024, and each calendar quarter  
114 thereafter, distribute the most recently completed quarter's  
115 bibliography created pursuant to paragraph (b) to the Governor,  
116 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of

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117 Representatives.

118 (5) The Legislature finds that statutory reporting  
119 requirements for state entities is of great value to the public  
120 for accountability and transparency in government. A single,  
121 modern, Internet-based repository is necessary to compile  
122 reports on government activities as well as to ensure that  
123 statutorily required reports are easily accessible and available  
124 to the public. The ability to search for a statutorily required  
125 report by specific information will save time for the requestor  
126 and reduce the workload of state entities that are required to  
127 respond to requests for reports. Therefore, the Legislature  
128 intends that the division receive statutorily required reports,  
129 and by January 1, 2024, the division shall implement and  
130 maintain a publicly available, Internet-based system that  
131 includes, but is not limited to, the following features and  
132 functions:

133 (a) A section or subsection that is dedicated to the  
134 cataloging of statutorily required reports;

135 (b) The ability for state entities to electronically file  
136 statutorily required reports and to receive electronic  
137 confirmation of those filings;

138 (c) The ability to search for and retrieve electronic  
139 versions of statutorily required reports by using the report's  
140 designated recipient, the state entity that submitted the  
141 report, the date of the report's submission, the law requiring  
142 the state entity to submit the report, the title or topic of the  
143 report, and identifiable keywords; and

144 (d) The ability for users to receive automated  
145 notifications of the filing of statutorily required reports

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146 ~~based on user-defined criteria Provide for at least quarterly~~  
147 ~~distribution of bibliographic information on reports to:~~

148 ~~1. Agencies and officers within the executive, legislative,~~  
149 ~~and judicial branches of state government, the State Board of~~  
150 ~~Education, the Board of Governors of the State University~~  
151 ~~System, and the Public Service Commission, free of charge; and~~

152 ~~2. Other interested parties upon request properly made and~~  
153 ~~upon payment of the actual cost of duplication pursuant to s.~~  
154 ~~119.07(1).~~

155 ~~(3) As soon as practicable, the administrative head of each~~  
156 ~~executive, legislative, or judicial agency and each agency of~~  
157 ~~the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors of the~~  
158 ~~State University System, and the Public Service Commission~~  
159 ~~required by law to make reports periodically shall ensure that~~  
160 ~~those reports are created, stored, managed, updated, retrieved,~~  
161 ~~and disseminated through electronic means.~~

162 ~~(4) This section may not be construed to waive or modify~~  
163 ~~the requirement in s. 257.05(2) pertaining to the provision of~~  
164 ~~copies of state publications to the division.~~

165 Section 2. For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the sum of \$1  
166 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is  
167 appropriated to the Department of State for the purpose of  
168 implementing and maintaining the searchable, publicly available,  
169 Internet-based system for statutorily required reports as  
170 required by this act.

171 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.