

HB 851 — Florida Legal Resource Center

by Rep. Grady and others (SB 2236 by Senator Richter)

This bill repeals the statutory authority for the Florida Legal Resource Center. The Legislature authorized the Florida Legal Resource Center in 1993 within the Department of Legal Affairs, for facilitating interagency legal information sharing and for establishing and maintaining a statewide legal research bank. Section 16.58, F.S., requires that the department adopt a procedure for state agencies, special districts, universities, community colleges, and junior colleges to submit legal information into the research bank at the center. However, the center was never widely used due to problems with technology compatibility among agencies and the growth of the Internet, which made this information widely available through agency websites. As a result, the center was disbanded. In a 2008 report, the Auditor General recommended that, given the current technological environment and availability of Web-based resources, as well as the expressed difficulty of obtaining research materials from governmental entities, the Legislature consider amending or repealing the provisions related to this statewide legal research bank.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2010.

Vote: Senate 35-0; House 113-0