

ENGROSSED HOUSE  
BILL NO. 1570

By: Boren, Dorman, Askins,  
Braddock, Brannon, Carey,  
Deutschendorf, Erwin,  
Gilbert, Hamilton,  
Hilliard, Hutchison,  
Lamons, Lerblance, Miller  
(Ray), Morgan (Danny),  
Nations, Roan, Smith  
(Dale), Staggs, Stanley,  
Sweeden and Walker of the  
House

and

Gumm of the Senate

An Act relating to state government; enacting the Rural Assistance Grant System (RAGS); imposing duty upon the Oklahoma Department of Commerce with respect to grant applications; requiring system of information; providing for noncodification; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Rural Assistance Grant System" (RAGS).

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.12 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall, subject to the availability of funds, establish a program to assist counties, cities, towns and other political subdivisions or governmental entities with the process for making applications for grants or other similar forms of assistance.

B. The Department of Commerce shall place emphasis upon providing grant application assistance to those entities of local

government the population of which is less than three thousand (3,000) persons for cities or towns or less than twenty thousand (20,000) persons for counties. The population limits specified in this subsection shall be measured using the latest Federal Decennial Census or most recent population estimate.

C. The Department of Commerce shall, subject to the availability of funds, establish a system for accumulating information about grants available from the federal government or other sources, including but not limited to the Community Development Block Grant program, and shall develop a method for informing counties, cities, towns or other units of local government about the availability of grant assistance upon the request of such entities.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2003.

SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the House of Representatives the 4th day of March, 2003.

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Presiding Officer of the House of  
Representatives

Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate