

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 1852*
Committee Substitute Favorable 6/2/10

Short Title: Nonprofit Grants/Increase Accountability.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 20, 2010

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE OVERSIGHT OF STATE GRANTS TO NON-STATE ENTITIES AND TO INCREASE THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF GRANTEES WHO RECEIVE STATE GRANTS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM EVALUATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, AND ALSO TO PROVIDE OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF CERTAIN GRANT AWARDS BY ALLOWING ON-SITE EXAMINATIONS OF FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMS EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES PURCHASED WITH THOSE FUNDS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 143C-6-23 reads as rewritten:

"§ 143C-6-23. State grant funds: administration; oversight and reporting requirements.

(a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

(1) ~~"Grant" and "grant funds" means Grant and grant funds.~~ – State funds disbursed as a grant by a State agency; ~~however, the agency.~~ These terms do not include any payment made by the Medicaid program, the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees, or other similar medical programs.

(2) ~~"Grantee" means a Grantee.~~ – A non-State entity that receives State funds as a grant from a State agency but does not include any non-State entity subject to the audit and other reporting requirements of the Local Government Commission.

(3) ~~"Subgrantee" means a Subgrantee.~~ – A non-State entity that receives State funds as a grant from a grantee or from another subgrantee but does not include any non-State entity subject to the audit and other reporting requirements of the Local Government Commission.

(b) Conflict of Interest Policy. – Every grantee shall file with the State agency disbursing funds to the grantee a copy of that grantee's policy addressing conflicts of interest that may arise involving the grantee's management employees and the members of its board of directors or other governing body. The policy shall address situations in which any of these individuals may directly or indirectly benefit, except as the grantee's employees or members of its board or other governing body, from the grantee's disbursing of State funds, and shall include actions to be taken by the grantee or the individual, or both, to avoid conflicts of interest and the appearance of impropriety. The policy shall be filed before the disbursing State agency may disburse the grant funds.

(c) No Overdue Tax Debts. – Every grantee shall file with the State agency or department disbursing funds to the grantee a written statement completed by that grantee's board of directors or other governing body stating that the grantee does not have any overdue tax debts, as defined by G.S. 105-243.1, at the federal, State, or local level. The written



1 statement shall be made under oath and shall be filed before the disbursing State agency or
2 department may disburse the grant funds. A person who makes a false statement in violation of
3 this subsection is guilty of a criminal offense punishable as provided by G.S. 143C-10-1.

4 (d) Office of State Budget Rules Must Require Uniform Administration of State Grants.

5 – The Office of State Budget and Management shall adopt rules to ensure the uniform
6 administration of State grants by all grantor State agencies and grantees or subgrantees. The
7 Office of State Budget and Management shall consult with the Office of the State Auditor and
8 the Attorney General in establishing the rules required by this subsection. The rules shall
9 establish policies and procedures for disbursements of State grants and for State agency
10 oversight, monitoring, and evaluation of grantees and subgrantees. The policies and procedures
11 shall:

12 (1) Ensure that the purpose and reporting requirements of each grant are
13 specified to the grantee.

14 (2) Ensure that grantees specify the purpose and reporting requirements for
15 grants made to subgrantees.

16 (2a) Require each contract that awards a grant to include all of the following:

17 a. Concrete, measurable benchmarks against which to measure success.
18 The benchmarks shall address the expected quantifiable outputs and
19 outcomes.

20 b. Identification of program performance measures that will be used to
21 compare quantifiable outputs and outcomes against the benchmarks
22 established in contracts pursuant to this subdivision.

23 c. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "output" means quantified
24 activities performed by the grantee and the term "outcome" means
25 what happens as a result of the grantee's activities.

26 (3) Ensure that State funds are spent in accordance with the purposes for which
27 they were granted.

28 (4) Hold the grantees and subgrantees accountable for the legal and appropriate
29 expenditure of grant funds.

30 (5) Provide for adequate oversight and monitoring to prevent the misuse of grant
31 funds.

32 (5a) Establish the criteria for grants from which oversight costs may be withheld
33 by a State agency pursuant to subsection (f1) of this section.

34 (5b) Provide procedures for the determination of the amount of a grant that may
35 be withheld for administrative costs pursuant to subsection (f1) of this
36 section.

37 (6) Establish mandatory periodic reporting requirements for grantees and
38 subgrantees, including methods of reporting, to provide financial ~~and~~
39 ~~program performance~~ information. The mandatory periodic reporting
40 requirements shall require grantees and subgrantees to file with the State
41 Auditor copies of reports and statements that are filed with State agencies
42 pursuant to this subsection. Compliance with the mandatory periodic
43 reporting requirements of this subdivision shall not require grantees and
44 subgrantees to file with the State Auditor the information described in
45 subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

46 (6a) Establish mandatory periodic reporting requirements for grantees and
47 subgrantees, including reporting on benchmarks set out in the contract
48 awarding the grant pursuant to subdivision (2a) of this subsection by means
49 of performance measures identified in the contract. Performance reporting
50 shall be reviewed by the State agency overseeing the grant on an ongoing

1 basis. The State agency overseeing the grant shall submit an annual
2 performance report to the Office of State Budget and Management.

3 (7) Require grantees and subgrantees to maintain reports, records, and other
4 information to properly account for the expenditure of all grant funds and to
5 make such reports, records, and other information available to the grantor
6 State agency for oversight, monitoring, and evaluation purposes.

7 (8) Require grantees and subgrantees to ensure that work papers in the
8 possession of their auditors are available to the State Auditor for the
9 purposes set out in subsection (i) of this section.

10 (9) Require grantees to be responsible for managing and monitoring each
11 project, program, or activity supported by grant funds and each subgrantee
12 project, program, or activity supported by grant funds.

13 (9a) Require a State agency that oversees a grant program to develop a
14 monitoring plan for that program. The State agency shall provide a
15 description of its monitoring plan and any additional information regarding
16 that plan to the Office of State Budget and Management.

17 (10) Provide procedures for the suspension of further disbursements or use of
18 grant funds for noncompliance with these rules or other inappropriate use of
19 the funds.

20 (11) Provide procedures for use in appropriate circumstances for reinstatement of
21 disbursements that have been suspended for noncompliance with these rules
22 or other inappropriate use of grant funds.

23 (12) Provide procedures for the recovery and return to the grantor State agency of
24 unexpended grant funds from a grantee or subgrantee if the grantee or
25 subgrantee is unable to fulfill the purposes of the grant.

26 (e) Rules Are Subject to the Administrative Procedure Act. – Notwithstanding the
27 provisions of G.S. 150B-2(8a)b. rules adopted pursuant to subsection (d) of this section are
28 subject to the provisions of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes.

29 (f) Suspension and Recovery of Funds to Grant Recipients for Noncompliance. – The
30 Office of State Budget and Management, after consultation with the administering State
31 agency, shall have the power to suspend disbursement of grant funds to grantees or
32 subgrantees, to prevent further use of grant funds already disbursed, and to recover grant funds
33 already disbursed for noncompliance with rules adopted pursuant to subsection (d) of this
34 section. In addition, the Office of the Controller shall electronically stop payments to a grantee
35 upon notification by the Office of State Budget and Management to suspend disbursement of
36 funds to the grantee.

37 If the grant funds are a pass-through of funds granted by an agency of the United States,
38 then the Office of State Budget and Management must consult with the granting agency of the
39 United States and the State agency that is the recipient of the pass-through funds prior to taking
40 the actions authorized by this subsection.

41 (f1) Withholding From Certain Grants to Cover Agency Oversight Costs. – A State
42 agency that oversees a grant may withhold up to two percent (2%) of the amount of the grant
43 awarded each fiscal year to cover grant oversight costs pursuant to this subsection if the grant
44 satisfies the criteria established by the Office of State Budget and Management. No State
45 agency shall withhold funds under this subsection until the State agency submits a written
46 request to the Office of State Budget and Management that sets out the oversight
47 responsibilities of the agency with regard to the grant, the amount that the agency is requesting
48 to withhold from the grant for the fiscal year, and receives approval from the Office of State
49 Budget and Management to withhold funds to cover the oversight costs. An agency may
50 withhold only the amount approved by the Office of State Budget and Management. The Office
51 of State Budget and Management shall determine whether it is appropriate to allow the

1 withholding under this section, and if so, the amount the may be withheld by the State agency.
2 The Office of State Budget and Management shall notify the State agency in writing of the
3 approval or disapproval of the request, and if approved, the amount that may be withheld.

4 If a State agency does receive approval under this section to withhold a percentage of the
5 amount of the grant awarded, then the agency shall reserve twenty-five percent (25%) of the
6 amount authorized by the Office of State Budget and Management to be withheld by the
7 agency and shall transfer those funds to the Office of State Budget and Management at the time
8 the grant funds are disbursed. The Office of State Budget and Management shall use the funds
9 transferred from the agency to cover costs related to statewide oversight of grants to non-State
10 entities.

11 Funds shall not be withheld under this subsection for the purpose of covering oversight
12 costs if the grant is a pass-through of funds granted by an agency of the United States and the
13 terms of the federal grant prohibit the withholding of funds described by this subsection.

14 (g) Audit Oversight. – The State Auditor has audit oversight, with respect to grant funds
15 received by the grantee or subgrantee, pursuant to Article 5A of Chapter 147 of the General
16 Statutes, of every grantee or subgrantee that receives, uses, or expends grant funds. A grantee
17 or subgrantee must, upon request, furnish to the State Auditor for audit all books, records, and
18 other information necessary for the State Auditor to account fully for the use and expenditure
19 of grant funds received by the grantee or subgrantee. The grantee or subgrantee must furnish
20 any additional financial or budgetary information requested by the State Auditor, including
21 audit work papers in the possession of any auditor of a grantee or subgrantee directly related to
22 the use and expenditure of grant funds.

23 (h) Report on Grant Recipients That Failed to Comply. – Not later than May 1, 2007,
24 and by May 1 of every succeeding year, the Office of State Budget and Management shall
25 report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and the Fiscal
26 Research Division on all grantees or subgrantees that failed to comply with this section with
27 respect to grant funds received in the prior fiscal year.

28 (i) State Agencies to Submit Grant List to Auditor. – No later than October 1 of each
29 year, each State agency shall submit a list to the State Auditor, in the format prescribed by the
30 State Auditor, of every grantee to which the agency disbursed grant funds in the prior fiscal
31 year. The list shall include the amount disbursed to each grantee and other information as
32 required by the State Auditor to comply with the requirements of this section."

33 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 143C-6-23(d), as amended by Section 1 of this act, is amended
34 by adding a new subdivision to read:

35 "(7a) Require grantees to submit cash-basis reporting within 90 days of the end of
36 the State fiscal year."

37 **SECTION 3.** Article 87 of Chapter 58 of the General Statutes is amended by
38 adding a new section to read:

39 **§ 58-87-7. Oversight and accountability of grant awards.**

40 To increase accountability and to expedite receipt of certain grant awards, notwithstanding
41 any other provision, the Office of the State Fire Marshal and other employees of the
42 Department of Insurance may in their discretion conduct on-site examinations of fire, rescue,
43 and EMS equipment and supplies purchased with funds awarded from either the Volunteer Fire
44 Department Fund or the Volunteer Rescue/EMS Fund. The on-site examinations may include
45 the inspection of equipment purchased from prior grants and may be conducted prior to or
46 simultaneous with the delivery of the grant awards. The on-site examination shall document
47 what equipment and supplies have been purchased by the volunteer fire department or
48 volunteer rescue/EMS department and whether those items were received by the department
49 and visually reviewed by the on-site examiner. Items that have already been distributed or put
50 in the field shall be noted by the on-site examiner. The Office of the State Fire Marshal shall

1 maintain records of on-site inspections and provide them, or a summary thereof, in reports to
2 the State Auditor or the Office of State Budget and Management."

3 **SECTION 4.** Section 2 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2012. The remainder
4 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2010.