

# Government Administration and Elections Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No:** HB-5341 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ELECTRONIC PORTAL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR

**Title:** STATE GRANT PROGRAMS.

**Vote Date:** 3/11/2026

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/4/2026

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Government Administration and Elections Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

The current landscape of state grant applications is not easy to navigate, meaning that potential grant applicants may lose out on state dollars that they would otherwise be eligible for. This bill authorizes the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to create an electronic portal for state grant programs in order to make these programs more accessible to applicants.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

**[Charlene Casamento, Undersecretary for Strategic Initiatives, Office of Policy and Management](#)**: Ms. Casamento explained the ongoing work being done by OPM and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to implement a Grant Management Solution (GMS), and she noted that the GMS would automate the administrative process behind grants and establish a portal that would display various funding opportunities and grants. She asserted that because this bill focuses on a smaller subset of grants than the GMS, OPM does not support this bill.

**[Michelle Gilman, Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services](#)**: Commissioner Gilman explained that while she supports the intent of this bill, DAS – in conjunction with multiple other agencies – is in the process of implementing a statewide GMS program. She noted that the bill would only create duplicative work and expressed her opposition.

**[Daniel O'Keefe, Commissioner, Department of Economic and Community Development](#)**: Commissioner O'Keefe explained the GMS being implemented by the

Executive Branch and its functions, including standardizing grant application processes across state government and establishing a user friendly public-facing portal for grant applications. Because of this ongoing work, he expressed that the Department does not believe an additional portal is necessary.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

[Michele May](#): Ms. May expressed her support for this bill and its potential to reduce bureaucracy, yet she requested that the committee amend the bill to implement robust financial safeguards on state grant moneys. She suggested requiring verification of U.S. citizenship, mandating annual public reports on grant distributions, and including mechanisms to identify ineffective grant programs.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed.

**Reported by: Sam Sims**

**Date: 3/24/26**