

Revised Legislative Appropriations Request

For Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015

**Submitted to the
Governor's Office of Budget and Planning and Policy
and the Legislative Budget Board**

by

Texas State Law Library

August 14, 2012

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State Law Library Board Members

Rick Gilpin, Office of the Attorney General – Chair
The Honorable Paul Green, Supreme Court
The Honorable Tom Price, Court of Criminal Appeals

Administrator's Statement

The mission of the State Law Library is to provide a superior legal reference facility for the citizens of the state with an emphasis on service to the members and staff of the Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, and the Office of the Attorney General. The State Law Library seeks to accomplish its mission through:

- providing access to the basic sources of legal information, regardless of format, to meet the present and future needs of the state;
- assisting court staff in carrying out their legal research
- developing customer-friendly access tools to legal resources to assist library users in finding needed materials;
- assisting library users in developing efficient legal research techniques and educating users in the use of information products and services; and
- increasing awareness of the State Law Library and its resources.

Patrons request assistance through on-site visits, telephone calls, email, or connecting to the library's web site. Library staff instructs users on how to find and use specific legal materials. On-site resources include a print collection of current and historical books and journals, on-line databases and CD-ROM products. When necessary to meet patron's needs for material not available in-house, library staff will use interlibrary loan, or conduct research in other libraries. Library staff use a variety of means to provide requested information in addition to loaning books, including photocopying, scanning, emailing and faxing.

The State Law Library provides the Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals with legal books and periodicals necessary for the day-to-day performance of their duties. This service includes approving, ordering, distributing and paying for materials requested and purchased.

The library facilitates the dissemination of Supreme Court briefs and case files from the Court of Criminal Appeals and the Third Court of Appeals by retrieving and photocopying numerous court records requested by the public, prison inmates, their families and their attorneys.

The State Law Library's success is determined by the quality of the staff, the currency and breadth of the informational materials at our disposal, and the timeliness of our response to patron requests. As the law is continuously changing it is necessary for the library to routinely update its collection of legal materials and it is necessary to have an experienced staff with up-to-date knowledge of developing trends in legal research. Budget fluctuations play havoc with both of these factors. The cost of legal materials increases at around 8% each year so any cut in appropriations for books is amplified due to rising costs. Due to recent cuts, the library's baseline budget for the next biennium will be 20% less than last biennium.

We have tried to mitigate the cuts during the current biennium by selectively updating our reference materials in a staggered fashion so that major works do not become too outdated. Also, our librarians are trained to update their research through electronic databases whenever possible. As time goes on however, more and more of our collection will become too out of date for our patrons to use with confidence.

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As requested, the library submitted plans for an additional 5% and 10% cut in funding. If the library's funding is cut 5% we will have to cancel even more reference materials. This would leave the library's materials budget 38% less than the current biennium. A 10% cut will require the same level of cuts in the book budget as well as the termination of 1 FTE position. This would be a 10% reduction in current staff.

In order to maintain the value of the State Law Library and the integrity of its collection we are requesting the following exceptional items:

1. Restore some of the funding lost in the current biennium

We are seeking additional funding to partially restore staff and library materials.

Staffing - The library lost 2.5 FTEs during the last cut. Library staff handle a wide variety of professional, paraprofessional and clerical tasks in maintaining the collection and providing basic services to our users, including covering a public service desk for nine hours each day. The number of walk-in clients and reference questions received continue to increase each year. With vacations and illnesses it has been difficult for the reduced staff to assist walk-in patrons and handle the growing volume of reference questions received by telephone and mail in a timely manner. Without the restoration of staff, patrons will continue to experience less personal service and delays in getting answers to their questions.

We are requesting restoration of one Librarian position (\$49,000 per year) and one Library Assistant (\$29,000 per year) to maintain and continue our efforts to provide service to our patrons.

Books – Last biennium the library was beginning to recover from several biennia of budget cuts which resulted in a book collection becoming seriously out-of-date. This biennium we have had to cancel updates to many of our standard reference materials.. However, the law continues to evolve, requiring periodic updates and supplements to keep abreast of changes. Due to the appropriation cuts, the baseline budget for books will be 40% less than expended during the last biennium. Additional funding is requested to continue updating more of the library's reference materials. Without additional funding the library collection will once again become outdated and patron confidence in the library will deteriorate.

We are requesting a biennial increase of \$150,000 per year to update library reference materials.

2.A. SUMMARY OF BASE REQUEST BY STRATEGY

8/14/2012 12:49:18PM

83rd Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1

Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

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Goal / Objective / STRATEGY	Exp 2011	Est 2012	Bud 2013	Req 2014	Req 2015
1 Administration and Operations					
1 Administration and Operations					
1 ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS	1,113,896	820,039	896,573	858,306	858,306
TOTAL, GOAL 1	\$1,113,896	\$820,039	\$896,573	\$858,306	\$858,306
TOTAL, AGENCY STRATEGY REQUEST	\$1,113,896	\$820,039	\$896,573	\$858,306	\$858,306
TOTAL, AGENCY RIDER APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST*				\$0	\$0
GRAND TOTAL, AGENCY REQUEST	\$1,113,896	\$820,039	\$896,573	\$858,306	\$858,306

2.A. SUMMARY OF BASE REQUEST BY STRATEGY

8/14/2012 12:49:37PM

83rd Regular Session, Agency Submission, Version 1

Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

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Goal / Objective / STRATEGY	Exp 2011	Est 2012	Bud 2013	Req 2014	Req 2015
METHOD OF FINANCING:					
General Revenue Funds:					
1 General Revenue Fund	1,081,808	800,789	877,323	839,056	839,056
SUBTOTAL	\$1,081,808	\$800,789	\$877,323	\$839,056	\$839,056
Other Funds:					
666 Appropriated Receipts	31,213	18,750	18,750	18,750	18,750
777 Interagency Contracts	875	500	500	500	500
SUBTOTAL	\$32,088	\$19,250	\$19,250	\$19,250	\$19,250
TOTAL, METHOD OF FINANCING	\$1,113,896	\$820,039	\$896,573	\$858,306	\$858,306

*Rider appropriations for the historical years are included in the strategy amounts.

