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Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Mike Beebe

Paul K. Halverson, DrPH, FACHE, Director and State Health Officer

Senator Hank Wilkins
Representative Daryl Pace
Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology
State Capitol
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Senator Wilkins and Representative Pace:

In accordance with Section 16 of Act 1283 of 2007, the Arkansas Department of Health respectfully requests your review and advice for a technology project that utilizes appropriation authorized in Section 7 – Information Technology Initiatives. Currently, the Arkansas Department of Health maintains Vital Records as a largely paper-based record system assisted by an obsolete and expensive WANG computer. Act 957 of 2001 increased fees for copies of birth and death certificates to raise \$1.35 million for development of an Internet-based electronic Vital Records system. While visionary, the Internet technology to implement this concept was not yet available.

Since then, The National Center for Health Statistics and the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information System have worked with states to develop standards and methodologies for an Electronic Vital Records System. Two states were able to demonstrate success implementation in 2005. At that point the Health Statistics Branch reactivated a search for a system that would meet both state and national needs.

Specifically, we are seeking a fully integrated, comprehensive, Electronic Vital Records System comprised of the following components: electronic death registry, electronic birth registry, fetal death registry, certification requests, amendments, accounting and reporting. This system will allow direct entry into a secure centralized database by qualified source personnel, including funeral directors, birth clerks, coroners, and medical examiners.

We anticipate negotiating a contract with a qualified bidder within the next few months, and we are working closely with the DFA – Office of State Procurement on the process to follow to accomplish this contracting. Please let me know if I can provide any further information on this request.

Sincerely,

Mary Leath, Director for Administration

cc: Richard Weiss, Department of Finance and Administration
Claire Bailey, Department of Information Systems
Ann Purvis, Department of Finance and Administration

As Engrossed: H3/26/07 H3/27/07 H3/28/07 H3/29/07 H3/29/07

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SECTION 15. APPROPRIATIONS - AR COMMISSION ON EYE/VISION CARE OF SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Health & Human Services - Division of Health, to be payable from cash funds as defined by Arkansas Code 19-4-801 of the Department of Health & Human Services - Division of Health, for Operating Expenses of the Arkansas Commission on Eye and Vision Care of School Age Children of the Department of Health & Human Services - Division of Health - AR Commission on Eye/Vision Care of School Age Children for the biennial period ending June 30, 2009, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEARS	
	2007-2008	2008-2009
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION		
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$ 20,905	\$ 20,905
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0	0
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$ 20,905</u>	<u>\$ 20,905</u>

SECTION 16. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TECHNOLOGY REVIEW. The Department of Health and Human Services - Division of Health shall seek approval of the state Chief Information Officer and the review and advice of the Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology and the Chief Information Officer Council prior to entering into any technology contract or technology project regarding the appropriation for Information Technology Initiatives.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2005 ~~2007~~ through June 30, ~~2007~~ 2009.

SECTION 17. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. PATIENT CARE PROVIDERS - COMPENSATION, REQUIRED WITHHOLDING, FRINGE BENEFITS. The Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services - Division of Health, at its discretion, is authorized to contract with intermittent Patient Care

As Enrolled: H3/26/07 H3/27/07 H3/28/07 H3/29/07 H3/29/07

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1 for other purposes as provided by law of the Department of Health & Human
 2 Services - Division of Health - Emergency Medical Services and Trauma for the
 3 biennial period ending June 30, 2009, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEARS	
	2007-2008	2008-2009
(01) EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES & TRAUMA		
SYSTEMS EXPENSES	\$ 9,728	\$ 9,728

10 SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES. There is
 11 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Health & Human Services - Division
 12 of Health, to be payable from the Health Department Technology Fund, for
 13 Information Technology Initiative activities of the Department of Health &
 14 Human Services - Division of Health - Information Technology Initiatives for
 15 the biennial period ending June 30, 2009, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEARS	
	2007-2008	2008-2009
(01) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES	\$ 596,640	\$ 596,640

21 SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - CHOOSE LIFE ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. There
 22 is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Health & Human Services -
 23 Division of Health, to be payable from the Choose Life Adoption Assistance
 24 Program Fund, for grants and aid to qualified organizations for adoption
 25 assistance services by the Department of Health & Human Services - Division
 26 of Health - Choose Life Adoption Assistance Program for the biennial period
 27 ending June 30, 2009, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEARS	
	2007-2008	2008-2009
(01) ADOPTION ASSISTANCE SERVICES GRANTS AND AID	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000

34 SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - NUCLEAR PLANNING GRANTS. There is hereby
 35 appropriated, to the Department of Health & Human Services - Division of
 36 Health, to be payable from the Arkansas Nuclear Planning and Response Fund,