

**SUBJECT:** Providing online occupational license information

**COMMITTEE:** State Affairs — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 5 ayes — Swinford, Miller, B. Cook, J. Keffer, Wong  
0 nays  
4 absent — Farrar, Gattis, Martinez Fischer, Villarreal

**SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 7 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar

**WITNESSES:** No public hearing

**BACKGROUND:** The State of Texas web site, [www.TexasOnline.com](http://www.TexasOnline.com), is intended to serve as the official compilation of Texas government electronic resources and as an index of Texas governmental web sites and services. The site is organized by subject to provide links and portals for citizens, visitors, businesses, state government, and others to locate efficiently appropriate resources. TexasOnline now allows Texans to renew their driver's licenses, vehicle registrations, and occupational licenses online. Other services have been added as needs have been identified.

**DIGEST:** SB 96 would require every state agency with jurisdiction over occupational licenses to work with TexasOnline to develop a link through TexasOnline for streamlined access to occupational licenses. TexasOnline could not charge a fee to develop the link.

The bill also would require each state agency to make available on its website all of its forms used by the public.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2005.

**SUPPORTERS SAY:** A single source is not now available for businesses to access occupational license information in Texas. SB 96 would make TexasOnline such a source. TexasOnline is a useful service that reduces costs and makes agency websites more consistent and user-friendly. Providing easier

access to information about occupational licenses for business could help the Texas economy.

OPPONENTS  
SAY:

No apparent opposition.