

PRESS ADVISORY

March 2, 2004

CONTACT: Leslie Mueller -  
Customer Support Manager, DIR  
(512) 936-7047  
leslie.mueller@dir.state.tx.us

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **March 2, 2004 –Texas Department of Information Resources Launches New TexasOnline Consumer and Business Portals**

AUSTIN – The Department of Information Resources (DIR) has launched two new online service portals via the State’s Official Website, TexasOnline.com. The ‘Living in Texas’ portal brings needed consumer services to Texans, and the ‘Texas Business Portal’ simplifies starting a new business.

Governor Rick Perry announced the launching of the new Portals during “Technology Week” at the Legislature. “These portals are excellent examples of how government can use technology to make it easier and friendlier for consumers and businesses to access a variety of government services and programs,” Governor Rick Perry said. “With a single stop, businesses wanting to expand in or move to Texas will be able to apply for all the licenses or permits they might need. Likewise, consumers will be able to go to a single source for information on a variety of licenses and programs as well as job openings.”

“The new Texas Business Portal is another great feature of the State’s Official Website, TexasOnline.com,” said Senator Eliot Shapleigh, “A Texas one-stop shop for business helps create more jobs and keeps good jobs here.”

For citizens, the ‘Living in Texas’ portal brings on-line services like driver license renewals, utility rates, tourist information and voter registration to a single point of access. For Texas businesses the ‘Texas Business Portal’ simplifies the process of fulfilling all state reporting and licensing requirements by bringing them into a single site that is easy to use.

--more--

*New Portals/add one*

One click away from the Texas Business Portal home page is complete information on how to start a business in Texas. This simplified four-step approach eliminates the need for searching multiple government sites to get a business up and running.

Both portals are linked directly off of Texas Online ([www.texasonline.com](http://www.texasonline.com)), the official website for the State of Texas and access is available at no charge to users. Like all aspects of Texas Online, both sites are available in English and Spanish. “We saw the opportunity to support Governor Perry’s commitment to simplifying access to government and we were able to leverage our investments to build these portals,” said Larry Olson, the State’s Chief Technology Officer and DIR Executive Director.

The ‘Living in Texas’ Portal features include:

- Information on electric utility rates
- Consumer Protection information
- Vehicle registration and renewal
- Job resources through WorkinTexas.com
- Personal tax information
- Access to public records

The ‘Texas Business Portal’ includes:

- A guide to starting a business in Texas
- Business opportunities with government
- Business research and statistics
- Economic development and expansion opportunities
- Employer resources
- Access to Texas workers through WorkinTexas.com

--more--

*New Portals/add two*

“These portals join other free online services already available through Texas Online that present information of value to specific customer groups such as the veterans and homeland security sites,” said Charles Bacarisse, Chair of the Texas Online Authority.

Visit the new ‘Texas Business Portal’ at [www.business.texasonline.com](http://www.business.texasonline.com)

Visit the new ‘Living in Texas Portal’ at [www.living.texasonline.com](http://www.living.texasonline.com)

Visit Texas Online at [www.texasonline.com](http://www.texasonline.com)

TexasOnline.com is the Official Website of the State of Texas. The portal offers online access to government entities, license renewals, services, and a wide variety of helpful information. Visit TexasOnline at [www.TexasOnline.com](http://www.TexasOnline.com).

The Department of Information Resources (DIR) is a state agency whose mission is to maximize the value of the buying power of government entities in the information technology arena . Visit DIR at [www.dir.state.tx.us](http://www.dir.state.tx.us).