



California tech company proposing to create 600 jobs in Austin

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LegalZoom, a Los Angeles online legal services company, is proposing to create a regional headquarters in Austin and create 600 jobs over the next five years, according to documents posted on the city Web site.

The city of Austin is proposing an economic incentives agreement that would pay the company \$20,000 a year for 10 years, tied to job creation targets. The Texas Enterprise Fund, a state incentives fund, would provide another \$1 million.

LegalZoom's move is contingent on approval of the incentives. Company executives couldn't immediately be reached for comment. But in information provided to the city, the company said it expected to fill the majority of the jobs locally.

LegalZoom would start with 50 jobs this year, rising to 150 in 2011, 200 in 2012, 250 in 2013 and 600 in 2014, according to the city documents.

The city posted the proposal and other information Thursday, following a City Council vote to approve a \$500,000, 10-year [incentives agreement with Hanger Orthopedics Group](#), which is moving its headquarters from Maryland to Austin later this year.

The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce has been pressing city leaders to be more flexible on incentives, at a time when competition for jobs is intense. Chamber leaders say still another West Coast tech company also is considering expanding in Austin but also is looking at Raleigh-Durham, N.C.

That unnamed company also is looking for incentives.

Under the city's incentives policy, documents on incentives agreements are made public ahead of public briefing and hearing and a council vote.

The council would hear a briefing on LegalZoom on Feb. 11 and hold a public hearing and vote a week later, according to the documents.

Courtesy of JB Goodwin