

SENATE BILL REPORT

ESHB 3175

As of February 23, 2010

Title: An act relating to transferring the office of minority and women's business enterprises into the department of commerce.

Brief Description: Transferring the office of minority and women's business enterprises into the department of commerce.

Sponsors: House Committee on General Government Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representative Darneille).

Brief History: Passed House: 2/18/10, 92-0.

Committee Activity: Economic Development, Trade & Innovation: 2/24/10.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE & INNOVATION

Staff: Jack Brummel (786-7428)

Background: The Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE) was created in 1983 with the statutory purpose of providing minority and women-owned business enterprises (MWBE) the maximum practicable opportunity for increased participation in public works contracts and public contracts for goods and services. Among other things, the OMWBE is required to:

- develop and implement programs and a comprehensive plan to provide an opportunity for qualified MWBE to participate in public works and in supplying goods and services to state agencies and educational institutions;
- identify barriers to equal participation by qualified MWBE in state agency and educational contracts;
- establish annual overall goals for MWBE participation for each state agency and educational institution;
- develop and maintain a central MWBE certification list for state agencies and educational institutions; and
- submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature outlining the progress in implementing the MWBE.

The OMWBE is the sole authority for certifying minority, women-owned, and socially and economically disadvantaged businesses for participation in public contracting programs. Only small business concerns, as defined by the OMWBE, may be certified.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill: The OMWBE and its functions are transferred to the Department of Commerce (Commerce) to be an office within Commerce. All materials held by the OMWBE related to its operation are transferred to the custody of Commerce. Employees of the OMWBE are transferred to Commerce without a loss of rights, and existing bargaining units of employees of the OMWBE are transferred in their entirety without becoming part of existing bargaining units at Commerce.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available on original bill.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on July 1, 2010.