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HOUSE BILL 1245

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State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Couture, Walen, Fitzgibbon, Barkis, Nance, Eslick, Caldier, Timmons, and Pollet

Read first time 01/14/25. Referred to Committee on Technology, Economic Development, & Veterans.

1 AN ACT Relating to promoting business development; and adding new  
2 sections to chapter 43.330 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 The definitions in this section apply throughout this section and  
7 sections 2 and 3 of this act unless the context clearly requires  
8 otherwise.

9 (1) "Business" means any corporation, partnership, company,  
10 cooperative, sole proprietorship, or other legal entity organized or  
11 operating for pecuniary or nonpecuniary gain.

12 (2) "Office" means the office of entrepreneurship established in  
13 section 2 of this act.

14 (3) "State agency" means a state agency, department, office,  
15 board, commission, bureau, division, or institution that is part of  
16 the executive branch of state government.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330  
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) The office of entrepreneurship is established. The director  
20 of the office must be appointed by the governor. The director's

1 primary duty is to make it easier to start and grow a business in  
2 Washington. The office may employ staff necessary to carry out the  
3 office's duties as prescribed by this section and section 3 of this  
4 act, subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
5 specific purpose.

6 (2) The office has the power and duty to:

7 (a) Work to promote and strengthen initiatives, policies, and  
8 programs supporting the entrepreneurship of Washington-based  
9 businesses with fewer than 10 employees;

10 (b) Work with stakeholders and organizations supporting  
11 entrepreneurship to enhance the learning and skills of, provide  
12 technical support to, and expand access to, resources for  
13 entrepreneurs across the state;

14 (c) Serve as a point of contact to assist businesses that have  
15 been in operation for not more than five years in their interactions  
16 with state agencies and, where appropriate, refer businesses to other  
17 state or local agencies that provide assistance to businesses; and

18 (d) Identify government regulations and fees that hinder business  
19 formation in the state.

20 (3) In carrying out its purpose, the office may collaborate with  
21 the department of commerce, the department of enterprise services,  
22 the office of the secretary of state, the department of veterans  
23 affairs, the office of regulatory innovation and assistance, the  
24 office of minority and women's business enterprises, and all other  
25 relevant state agencies. Such relevant state agencies shall cooperate  
26 with and assist the office in the performance of its duties and  
27 functions, including by providing data collected by such agencies  
28 that is necessary for the office to complete its reporting  
29 obligations under section 3 of this act.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330  
31 RCW to read as follows:

32 (1) Beginning November 1, 2026, and biennially thereafter, the  
33 office shall submit to the legislative committees with jurisdiction  
34 over economic development policy a report that includes, without  
35 limitation:

36 (a) The number and total dollar amount of state contracts awarded  
37 to businesses that have been in operation for not more than five  
38 years, including a breakdown by demographic segments and geographic  
39 areas throughout the state;

1 (b) The percentage of the number of state contracts awarded to  
2 businesses that have been in operation for not more than five years  
3 compared to the total number of contracts awarded;

4 (c) The number of businesses owned by women, minorities, or  
5 veterans that have been in operation for not more than five years and  
6 have been awarded a state contract;

7 (d) The percentage of the total dollar amount of state contracts  
8 awarded to businesses that have been in operation for not more than  
9 five years compared to the total dollar amount of contracts awarded;

10 (e) The types of businesses that have been in operation for not  
11 more than five years and have been awarded a state contract;

12 (f) Recommendations on improving access to state contracts for  
13 businesses that have been in operation for not more than five years,  
14 including those businesses in statistically underrepresented  
15 demographic segments and geographic areas of the state;

16 (g) Recommendations on improving overall entrepreneurship in the  
17 state including identifying regional challenges to entrepreneurship;  
18 and

19 (h) Any additional information deemed necessary by the office to  
20 provide an accurate depiction of the condition of entrepreneurship in  
21 the state.

22 (2) The office shall encourage five percent of the total number  
23 and value of state contracts to be awarded to businesses that have  
24 been in operation for not more than five years and whose principal  
25 place of business is in this state.

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