

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 2022
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Economic Development
5/14/1999
Engrossed

DIGEST

The Texas Department of Economic Development (department) currently has an Office of Small Business Assistance (office) that provides information to businesses, but it only provides state permit information. Providing this referral service has taken up much time and has left other office functions unimplemented. H.B. 2022 would require the office to be headed by a small business advocate appointed by the governor; require the office to develop a "one-stop" approach for all small business needs; and include the governing board of the department in the list of entities to which the department is required to submit a biennial report.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 2022 establishes conditions regarding the appointment of a small business advocate to head the Office of Small Business Assistance.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 481.0068(a), (b), and (e), Government Code, to provide that the Office of Small Business Assistance (office) is an office within the Texas Department of Economic Development (department) and shall be headed by a small business advocate appointed by the governor, rather than director. Requires a person to have demonstrated a strong commitment to and involvement in small business efforts, to be eligible to serve as the small business advocate. Establishes the small business advocate serves at the will of the governor. Requires the office, among other things, to develop a "one-stop" approach for all small business needs, including competitive activity with state agencies and political subdivisions. Requires the department to submit to the governor, governing board, and the legislature a report containing certain specific information, not later than September 1 of each even-numbered year. Makes a conforming change.

SECTION 2. Provides that as soon as possible after the effective date of this Act, the governor shall appoint a small business advocate as required by Section 481.0068, Government Code, as amended by this Act.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.