

HB 2694 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Business and Labor

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Meeting Dates: 2/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows business owned by individual who is lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender to certify business for public contracting opportunities. Allows Oregon Business Development Department to adopt rules that set standards for certifying such businesses, specifying that Department may accept certification from the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce as evidence that the applicant for certification has met standards. Becomes operative January 1, 2022. Takes effect 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity (COBID) certifies eligible businesses with the goal of providing certified firms a fair opportunity to compete for government contracts. Through COBID's outreach, education, and mentoring efforts, certified businesses are better prepared to access government contracting opportunities at the state, county, and local level. Eligible businesses include those owned by an individual who is a minority, woman, or service-disabled veteran. COBID also certifies emerging small businesses and disadvantaged business enterprises. A minority-owned business enterprise is eligible for certification if its three-year average of gross annual receipts do not exceed \$26.29 million and other qualification standards are met. COBID is under the Business Development Department (Business Oregon).

House Bill 2694 expands the definition of "minority individual," for purposes of COBID certification, to include an individual who is lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender.