

HB 2161 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Economic Recovery and Prosperity

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Meeting Dates: 2/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the office of the Governor, in consultation with the Racial Justice Council, to study laws related to economic opportunity. Specifies the focus of the study to be on policy changes that address racial equity in economic opportunity. Requires the results of the study to be reported by September 15, 2022. Sunsets on January 2, 2023. Takes effect on the 91st day after sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Established by the Governor in 2020, the Racial Justice Council is charged with collecting data to support policy decisions and providing principles and recommendations centered on racial justice to inform the Governor's recommended budget and tax expenditure report. The Council is also tasked with creating an action plan for six specified areas, including economic opportunity. The committee on economic activity is responsible for identifying "needs to support long-term economic success of populations who experience systemic economic disadvantages in business creation, access to traditional capital and wealth creation." The committee must evaluate "current economic development incentives, grants, tax breaks, technical assistance, and other supports in terms of racial justice, and provide recommendations for modifications if appropriate" and "current public contracting opportunities for minority-owned and underserved businesses and develop strategies to dramatically increase them."

House Bill 2161 requires the Office of the Governor, in consultation with the economic development committee of the Racial Justice Council, to study laws related to economic activity with a focus on policy changes that address racial equity in economic activity in the state, and to report on the results of the study by September 15, 2022.