

# House Bill 2553

Sponsored by Representative MEEK (Presession filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs Office of Small Business Assistance to provide small businesses with information about, and facilitate access to, available technical assistance resources at time small business becomes registered with Secretary of State.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to the duties of the Office of Small Business Assistance; amending ORS 56.203.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 56.203 is amended to read:

5 56.203. (1) The Office of Small Business Assistance is established within the Office of Secretary  
6 of State. The Secretary of State shall employ and appoint personnel necessary to perform the func-  
7 tions and duties of the Office of Small Business Assistance.

8 (2) The Office of Small Business Assistance shall:

9 (a) Assist state agencies with regulatory authority over small businesses to ensure that small  
10 businesses that are subject to audit, on-site inspection, compliance monitoring or compliance assist-  
11 ance efforts by state agencies, or that receive enforcement-related communications from or have  
12 contacts with state agencies with regulatory authority over small businesses, are provided with the  
13 means to comment on these interactions with state agencies.

14 (b) Work with state agencies for the purpose of facilitating interactions between small busi-  
15 nesses and state agencies, including but not limited to obtaining timely responses to small business  
16 inquiries and requests, and resolving issues that arise in the administrative, regulatory and  
17 enforcement functions of state agencies with respect to small businesses.

18 (c) Work with small businesses and state agencies to identify and recommend efficient, respon-  
19 sive and nonretaliatory processes for:

20 (A) Receiving concerns or complaints from small businesses regarding interactions with state  
21 agencies;

22 (B) Participation of small businesses in general studies, conferences, inquiries or meetings that  
23 would improve the functioning of state agencies with regulatory authority over small businesses;

24 (C) Identifying causes of unnecessary delays, inconsistencies in the administrative, regulatory  
25 and enforcement functions of state agencies and inefficient uses of state resources; and

26 (D) Making recommendations for resolving issues and disputes that arise in the context of  
27 interactions between state agencies and small businesses.

28 (d) *[Upon receipt of a question from a small business relating to any aspect of starting, operating*  
29 *or winding up a small business,]* Direct or refer *[the]* **a small business that asks a question related**  
30 **to any aspect of starting, operating or winding up the small business** to an appropriate re-  
31 source to answer the question.

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (e) Work with small businesses and local governments for the purpose of facilitating interactions  
2 between small businesses and local governments, including but not limited to resolving issues that  
3 arise in the administrative, regulatory and enforcement functions of local governments with respect  
4 to small businesses.

5 (f) Work with small businesses and local governments to identify and recommend ways to im-  
6 prove processes and functions of local governments with respect to the interaction between local  
7 governments and small businesses, including but not limited to conducting general studies, confer-  
8 ences, inquiries or meetings.

9 **(g) Provide small businesses with information about, and facilitate access to, available**  
10 **technical assistance resources at the time the small business becomes registered with the**  
11 **Secretary of State.**

12 (3) All state agencies shall cooperate with and assist the Office of Small Business Assistance in  
13 the performance of *[its]* **the office's** duties and functions.

14 (4)(a) Public records *[prepared by or received by]* the Office of Small Business Assistance **pre-**  
15 **pares or receives** under subsection (2) of this section or ORS 56.206 are confidential and exempt  
16 from disclosure by the Office of Small Business Assistance under ORS 192.311 to 192.478, except for  
17 reports required under ORS 56.206.

18 (b) Communications to and from the Office of Small Business Assistance are confidential and  
19 exempt from disclosure under ORS 192.311 to 192.478.

20 (c) As used in this subsection, "public record" has the meaning given that term in ORS 192.311.

21 (5) The Secretary of State may adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of ORS 56.200  
22 to 56.209.

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