

Vice-chairs Morgan and Nguyen, and fellow committee members, for the record by name is Janelle Bynum and I am the representative for House District 39.

I bring House Bill 3272 before you today because our state lacks a sufficient data source to accurately track the participation and success of historically underserved businesses. Without centralized information regarding minority-owned, women-owned, and veteran-owned businesses, we are simply unable to understand present needs, and cannot fully anticipate future demands to best serve these businesses. This also leaves us largely unable to accurately track the success of legislation that strives to serve these businesses, thereby depriving Oregon of the benefits that flow from having a diverse business sector.

House Bill 3272 solves this problem in part by requiring the Secretary of State to collect business license demographic data from local agencies and state agencies; and allows the Secretary of State to share this data with community-based organizations dedicated to increasing the number of minority-owned, women-owned, and veteran-owned businesses.

An illustration that highlights the need for this reporting relates to the semiconductor industry legislation that is a top priority for our state this session. The federal CHIPS Act mandates minority-owned and veteran-owned inclusion as a prerequisite for receiving federal dollars. This mandate includes auditing requirements, and House Bill 3272 creates the information center needed to comply with this auditing requirement, and can be used locally to ensure that the massive spending our state is offering is reaching the targeted communities.

The semiconductor industry and attracting CHIPS Act funding is just one example of the larger mission behind this bill. Every year our states passes legislation to better serve and support minority-owned and veteran-owned businesses. We are however often unable to track the effectiveness of these programs. House Bill 3272 will allow our state to better track the impact of economic development legislation and provide a basis for us to determine what else must be done to serve these businesses.

Colleagues, for these reasons I ask you to support House Bill 3272.