



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Bill increases collaboration between small businesses and Oregon communities

SB 1583 helps small businesses link with their local governments

SALEM – The Oregon Senate took action today to build a more effective bridge between the public and private sectors and assist small businesses navigating local government processes.

Senate Bill 1583, which passed by a 28-0 vote, directs the Office of Small Business Assistance to act as a facilitator between small businesses and local governments and provide recommendations to improve local government transactions with small businesses. The bill, introduced by Gov. Kate Brown, is part of Oregon Senate Democrats' session agenda to help grow Oregon's economy by providing resources to small businesses.

"We are committed to helping small businesses by providing the tools they need to be successful," Sen. Lee Beyer (D-Springfield) said. "Interactions with local governments can be among the most vital governmental contacts that a small business can have. This bill takes a good step toward helping small businesses work with government in a more effective way."

The bill expands the duties of the Office of Small Business Assistance – which resides in the Oregon Secretary of State's Office – to include coordination with and assistance to county and municipal governments. The Office of Small Business Assistance was created by the Legislature in 2013 to facilitate interactions between small businesses – which are defined for program purposes as established entities with 100 or fewer employees located in or moving to Oregon – and state agencies. The office also reviews and investigates small businesses' complaints about interactions with state agencies.

SB 1583 now will go to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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