



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Senate makes navigating government easier for small businesses

HB 3459A establishes Office of Small Business Assistance to help small businesses navigate state agencies

SALEM—Today the Oregon Senate voted to create a permanent advocate and voice for small businesses in state government. House Bill 3459A, which creates the Office of Small Business Assistance, passed the Senate on a vote of 28-1 with one excused.

“Oregon’s small businesses fuel innovation, provide family wage jobs, and are the backbone of our local economies,” said Senator Alan Bates (D-Medford). “It’s time they had a permanent advocate to ensure that state agencies and departments provide opportunities that help small businesses grow and expand.”

Small businesses provide 55.5 percent of all private-sector jobs in Oregon, and most small businesses have fewer than 20 employees. Recent growth in small businesses in Oregon has been a significant contributor to job growth, resulting in brightening employment statistics.

The Office of Small Business Assistance will facilitate interactions between small businesses and state agencies. In order to ensure a level playing field, the office will also conduct reviews and investigations of complaints received from small business with respect to interactions with state agencies.

“Small businesses add to the vibrancy of our communities and supply economic vitality to our entire state,” said Senator Chris Edwards (D-Eugene). “We need to stand up for small businesses, and this bill helps them navigate their way to economic development tools and infrastructure services while ensuring equal treatment from state agencies.”

Senate Democrats have consistently prioritized legislation to support small businesses, including the creation of Business Xpress in 2011 and other programs that help small businesses access the capital they need to grow and expand.

House Bill 3459A now heads to Governor John A. Kitzhaber for his signature.

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