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March 1, 2023

SENATE BILL NO. 119

By: Bergstrom

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[ economic development - Office of Entrepreneurship -
report - business development - contracts - fees -
codification - effective date ]
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BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.16 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Right-to-Start Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.16.1 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created within the Oklahoma Department of Commerce the Office of Entrepreneurship.

B. The Office of Entrepreneurship shall employ personnel to strengthen policies and programs supporting the growth of entrepreneurship in the state including, but not limited to, across demographic segments and geographic areas. The Office shall work

1 with stakeholders and organizations supporting entrepreneurship to
2 enhance learning and skills, provide technical support, and expand
3 access to resources for entrepreneurs across this state. The Office
4 shall serve as a point of contact to assist businesses operating for
5 five (5) years or less in their interactions with state government.

6 C. No later than January 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the
7 Office shall prepare an annual report detailing the extent to which
8 state legislation that has been signed by the Governor in the prior
9 legislative session or year supports, hinders, or otherwise affects
10 businesses operating for five (5) years or less.

11 D. The Office shall support and advise the Executive Director
12 of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce with preparing the report
13 pursuant to Section 3 of this act.

14 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.16.2 of Title 74, unless
16 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 A. No later than January 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the
18 Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall file
19 a report with the Legislature that includes, but is not limited to:

20 1. The number and total dollar amount of state contracts
21 awarded to businesses that have been in operation for less than five
22 (5) years, including a breakdown by demographic segments and
23 geographic areas throughout the state;

1 2. The percentage of the number of state contracts awarded to
2 businesses that have been in operation for less than five (5) years
3 compared to the total number of contracts awarded; and

4 3. The percentage of the total dollar amount of state contracts
5 awarded to businesses that have been in operation for less than five
6 (5) years compared to the total dollar amount of contracts awarded.

7 B. The Director shall produce and file a report with the
8 Legislature making recommendations on improving access to state
9 contracts for businesses that have been in operation for less than
10 five (5) years, including those businesses in statistically
11 underrepresented demographic segments and geographic areas of the
12 state.

13 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.16.3 of Title 74, unless
15 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 After the effective date of this act, the Legislature shall
17 encourage five percent (5%) of the total number of state contracts
18 to be awarded to businesses that have been in operation for less
19 than five (5) years and whose principal place of business is in the
20 state.

21 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.16.4 of Title 74, unless
23 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 No later than January 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the
2 Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall file
3 a report with the Legislature that includes, but is not limited to:

4 1. The percentage of workforce development funding, including
5 funding allocated by Workforce Development Boards across the state,
6 supporting organizations or programs for individuals starting new
7 businesses or to those organizations or programs that provide
8 services to businesses established within the previous five (5)
9 years and whose principal place of business is in this state; and

10 2. The total dollar amount of workforce development funding,
11 including funding allocated by Workforce Development Boards across
12 the state, supporting organizations and programs for individuals
13 starting new businesses, or to those organizations or programs that
14 provide services to businesses established within the previous five
15 (5) years and whose principal place of business is in this state.

16 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.16.5 of Title 74, unless
18 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19 After the effective date of this act, the Legislature shall
20 encourage five percent (5%) of workforce development funding,
21 including funding allocated by Workforce Development Boards across
22 the state, towards supporting organizations and programs for
23 individuals starting new businesses or to those organizations or
24 programs that provide services to businesses established within the

1 previous five (5) years and whose principal place of business is in
2 this state.

3 SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.16.6 of Title 74, unless
5 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 No later than January 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the
7 Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall file
8 a report with the Legislature that includes, but is not limited to:

9 1. The percentage of economic development funding, including
10 Community Development Block Grants, supporting organizations or
11 programs for individuals starting new businesses or to those
12 organizations or programs that provide services to businesses
13 established within the previous five (5) years and whose principal
14 place of business is in this state; and

15 2. The total dollar amount of economic development funding,
16 including Community Development Block Grants, supporting
17 organizations or programs for individuals starting new businesses or
18 to those organizations or programs that provide services to
19 businesses established within the previous five (5) years and whose
20 principal place of business is in this state.

21 SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.16.7 of Title 74, unless
23 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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1 After the effective date of this act, the Legislature shall
2 encourage five percent (5%) of funding budgeted for economic
3 development programs, including Community Development Block Grants,
4 to be allocated to supporting organizations and programs for
5 individuals starting new businesses or to those organizations or
6 programs that provide services to businesses established within the
7 previous five (5) years and whose principal place of business is in
8 this state.

9 SECTION 9. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
10 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.16.8 of Title 74, unless
11 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

12 After the effective date of this act, the Legislature shall
13 encourage the elimination of all first-year business fees relating
14 to any license or registration, for any new business or a person
15 establishing a new business, including home-based businesses, whose
16 principal place of business is in this state.

17 SECTION 10. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

18 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
19 March 1, 2023 - DO PASS
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