

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Commerce and Economic Development to which was
3 referred Senate Bill No. 85 entitled “An act relating to simplifying government
4 for small businesses” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
5 recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by
6 striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the
7 following:

8 Sec. 1. SIMPLIFYING GOVERNMENT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES;
9 ONE-STOP BUSINESS PORTAL

10 (a) The Secretary of State, in collaboration with other State agencies and
11 business community stakeholders, shall gather requirements, review, and
12 consider the necessary procedural and substantive steps necessary to create an
13 easily navigable portal for businesses, entrepreneurs, and citizens to access
14 information about starting and operating a business in Vermont, with an
15 emphasis on small business.

16 (b) On or before January 15, 2018, the Secretary of State shall submit a
17 design proposal, including a timeline, roadmap, resources, and any statutory or
18 regulatory changes needed to effectuate the implementation of a one-stop
19 business portal.

20 (c) The Secretary of State, Secretary of Commerce and Community
21 Development, and the Secretary of Digital Services or their designees shall

1 serve as a Steering Committee and shall coordinate, manage, and approve the
2 design proposal detailing recommendations for the creation, ongoing
3 operation, and management of the one-stop business portal.

4 (d) The Steering Committee shall consider and integrate to the extent
5 feasible features that:

6 (1) enhance the State’s website to simplify registrations and offer a clear
7 compilation of other State business requirements, including permits and
8 licenses;

9 (2) simplify the mechanism for making payments to the State, by allowing a
10 person to pay amounts he or she owes to the State for taxes, fees, or other
11 charges, to a single recipient within government;

12 (3) simplify annual filing requirements by allowing a person to make a
13 single filing to a single recipient within government and simply to check a box
14 if nothing substantive has changed from the prior year;

15 (4) provide guidance, assistance with navigating the process, and other
16 support to persons who are forming or operating a small business;

17 (5) after registration, provide information about additional and ongoing
18 State requirements and a point of contact to discuss questions or explore any
19 assistance needed;

1 (6) provide guidance and information about State and federal programs and
2 initiatives, as well as State partner organizations and Vermont-based
3 businesses of interest; and

4 (7) map communication channels for project updates, including digital
5 channels such as e-mail, social media, and other communications.

6 (e) If the Steering Committee requests assistance from a State agency in
7 gathering requirements and producing the report, the agency shall furnish the
8 requested assistance.

9 (f) The Steering Committee shall collaborate with and consider work being
10 done by the PIVOT program as the Committee builds a roadmap for
11 functionality.

12 (g) The Agency of Digital Services shall temporarily assign a project
13 manager or business analyst position to report directly to the Secretary of State
14 to assist with gathering requirements, the design proposal, and reporting.

15 (h) The Steering Committee shall focus the services available pursuant to
16 this section primarily on businesses with fewer than 20 employees.

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1 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE