

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, the Secretary of Commerce and Community  
11 Development, and the Secretary of Digital Services or their designees shall  
12 serve as a steering committee that, in collaboration with leaders of the Program  
13 to Improve Vermont Outcomes Together, other State agencies, and business  
14 community stakeholders, shall gather requirements and review and consider  
15 the necessary procedural and substantive steps to create a one-stop business  
16 portal for businesses, entrepreneurs, and citizens that provides information  
17 about starting and operating a business in Vermont.

18 (b) The steering committee shall evaluate the cost and efficacy of potential  
19 features of the portal, including features that:

1           (1) enhance State websites to simplify registrations and provide a clear  
2           compilation of other State business requirements, including permits and  
3           licenses;

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

7           (3) simplify annual filing requirements by allowing a person to make a  
8           single filing to a single recipient within State government and check a box if  
9           nothing substantive has changed from the prior year;

10          (4) provide guidance, assistance with navigation, and other support to  
11          persons who are forming or operating a small business;

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

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

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

20          (c) State agencies and departments shall provide assistance to the steering  
21          committee upon its request.

1        (d) On or before January 15, 2019, the Secretary of State, on behalf of the  
2        steering committee, shall submit a design proposal, including a project scope,  
3        timeline, and roadmap and the resources and any statutory or regulatory  
4        changes needed to implement a one-stop business portal.

5        (e) The steering committee shall focus its review on providing services  
6        through the one-stop business portal primarily for the benefit of businesses  
7        with 20 or fewer employees.

8        (f) The Agency of Digital Services shall temporarily assign a project  
9        manager or business analyst to report directly to the Secretary of State to assist  
10       with the implementation of this act.

11       Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATES

12       This act shall take effect on passage, except that Sec. 1(f) shall take effect  
13       on July 1, 2018.

14

15

16       (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

17

\_\_\_\_\_

18

Representative \_\_\_\_\_

19

FOR THE COMMITTEE