

S.85

An act relating to simplifying government for small businesses.

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the bill by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. SIMPLIFYING GOVERNMENT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES;

ONE-STOP BUSINESS PORTAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(d) On or before January 15, 2019, the Secretary of State, on behalf of the steering committee, shall submit a design proposal, including a project scope,

timeline, and roadmap and the resources and any statutory or regulatory changes needed to implement a one-stop business portal.

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

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

## Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATES

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