

1 H.383

2 Introduced by Representatives Buss of Woodstock, Priestley of Bradford,
3 Andriano of Orwell, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Galfetti of Barre
4 Town, Garofano of Essex, Graning of Jericho, Minier of South
5 Burlington, Mrowicki of Putney, Mulvaney-Stanak of
6 Burlington, Nicoll of Ludlow, Stebbins of Burlington, and
7 Williams of Barre City

8 Referred to Committee on

9 Date:

10 Subject: Commerce and trade; economic development; business organizations

11 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
12 Secretary of State, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development,
13 and the Agency of Digital Services to update the plans and take steps necessary
14 to complete implementation of a one-stop portal for businesses.

15 An act relating to completing the one-stop portal for businesses

16 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

17 Sec. 1. 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 196, Sec. 1, as amended by 2019 Acts and
18 Resolves No. 80, Sec. 13, is further amended to read:

19 Sec. 1. SIMPLIFYING GOVERNMENT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

1 (a) The Secretary of State shall serve as the chair of a steering committee,
2 composed of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce and
3 Community Development, and the Secretary of Digital Services or their
4 designees.

5 (b) The Secretary of State, in collaboration with the steering committee,
6 and in collaboration with other State agencies and departments and interested
7 stakeholders ~~as necessary~~, shall:

8 (1) review and consider the necessary procedural and substantive steps
9 to enhance the Secretary of State's one-stop business portal for businesses,
10 entrepreneurs, and citizens to provide information about starting and operating
11 a business in Vermont; and

12 (2) submit on or before December 15, ~~2019~~ 2023:

13 (A) a design proposal that includes a project scope, timeline,
14 roadmap, and cost projections;

15 (B) any statutory or regulatory changes needed to implement the
16 proposal; and

17 (C) a sustainable funding model for the portal.

18 (c) The steering committee shall evaluate the cost and efficacy, and
19 integrate into the current one-stop portal to the extent feasible, features that:

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

4 (2) implement a data collection component that offers the registrant the
5 option to self-identify, and make available to the public through the business
6 search function, demographic information concerning ownership of the
7 business, including whether the business is woman-owned, veteran-owned,
8 BIPOC-owned, LGBTQ-owned, or minority-owned;

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

12 ~~(3)~~(4) simplify annual filing requirements by allowing a person to make
13 a single filing to a single recipient within State government and check a box if
14 nothing substantive has changed from the prior year;

15 ~~(4)~~(5) provide guidance, assistance with navigation, and other support to
16 persons who are forming or operating a small business;

17 ~~(5)~~(6) after registration, provide information about additional and
18 ongoing State requirements and a point of contact to discuss questions or
19 explore any assistance needed;

1 ~~(6)~~(7) provide guidance and information about State and federal
2 programs and initiatives, as well as State partner organizations and Vermont-
3 based businesses of interest; and

4 ~~(7)~~(8) map communication channels for project updates, including
5 digital channels such as e-mail, social media, and other communications.

6 (d) All State agencies and departments shall designate a single employee or
7 team of employees who are charged with the duty to provide assistance to the
8 steering committee upon its request.

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

12 (f) The Agency of Digital Services shall assign a project manager or
13 business analyst to report directly to the Secretary of State to assist with the
14 implementation of this act through June 30, ~~2020~~ 2025 for the purpose of
15 developing and implementing a one-stop navigable portal for businesses,
16 entrepreneurs, and citizens to access information about starting a business in
17 Vermont, and to provide ongoing support to businesses interfacing with State
18 government.

19 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect on passage.