

1 H.257

2 Introduced by Representatives Priestley of Bradford, Boyden of Cambridge,
3 Chapin of East Montpelier, Micklus of Milton, and Sibia of
4 Dover

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: Executive; commerce and community development; entrepreneurship

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create the
9 Office of Entrepreneurship to develop policies and programs pertaining to
10 entrepreneurs.

11 An act relating to creating the Office of Entrepreneurship

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

13 Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 2478 is added to read:

14 § 2478. OFFICE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

15 (a) The Office of Entrepreneurship is created within the Agency of
16 Commerce and Community Development to promote the needs of
17 entrepreneurs in the State by:

18 (1) working to strengthen policies and programs supporting the growth
19 of entrepreneurship in the State across demographic segments and geographic
20 areas;

1 (2) working with stakeholders and organizations supporting
2 entrepreneurship to enhance the learning and skills of, provide technical
3 support to, and expand access to resources for entrepreneurs across the State;

4 (3) serving as a point of contact to assist businesses that have been in
5 operation for not more than five years in interactions with State agencies and,
6 where appropriate, referring businesses to other State or local agencies that
7 provide assistance to businesses; and

8 (4) encouraging the award of at least five percent of the total number of
9 State contracts to businesses that have been in operation for not more than five
10 years and whose principal place of business is in this State.

11 (b) Beginning on March 1, 2027 and each year thereafter, the Office of
12 Entrepreneurship shall submit to the General Assembly a report that includes
13 the following information for the previous calendar year:

14 (1) the number and total dollar amount of State contracts awarded to
15 businesses that have been in operation for not more than five years, including a
16 breakdown by demographic segments and geographical areas throughout the
17 State;

18 (2) the percentage of State contracts awarded to businesses that have
19 been in operation for not more than five years compared to the total number of
20 contracts awarded;

1 (3) the number of businesses owned by women, minorities, or veterans
2 that have been in operation for not more than five years and have been
3 awarded a State contract;

4 (4) the percentage of the total dollar amount of State contracts awarded
5 to businesses that have been in operation for not more than five years
6 compared to the total dollar amount of contracts awarded;

7 (5) recommendations on improving access to State contracts for
8 businesses that have been in operation for not more than five years, including
9 businesses in statistically underrepresented demographic segments and
10 geographic areas of Vermont;

11 (6) recommendations on improving overall entrepreneurship in this
12 State, including identifying regional challenges to entrepreneurship; and

13 (7) any additional information deemed necessary by the Agency of
14 Commerce and Community Development to provide an accurate depiction of
15 the conditions of entrepreneurship in Vermont.

16 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

17 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.