

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 SENATE BILL 119

By: Bergstrom

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to economic development; creating the  
8 Right-to-Start Act; providing short title; creating  
9 the Office of Entrepreneurship; providing purpose of  
10 Office; requiring submission of report to  
11 Legislature; providing contents of report;  
12 authorizing the Office to track certain metrics of  
13 business development in state; requiring certain  
14 percentage of contracts to go to certain businesses;  
15 encouraging the elimination of certain fees for new  
16 businesses; providing for codification; and providing  
17 an effective date.

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

19 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.16 of Title 74, unless  
21 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Right-to-Start  
23 Act".

24 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.16.1 of Title 74, unless  
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. There is hereby created within the Oklahoma Department of  
2 Commerce the Office of Entrepreneurship.

3 B. The Office of Entrepreneurship shall employ personnel to  
4 strengthen policies and programs supporting the growth of  
5 entrepreneurship in the state including, but not limited to, across  
6 demographic segments and geographic areas. The Office shall work  
7 with stakeholders and organizations supporting entrepreneurship to  
8 enhance learning and skills, provide technical support, and expand  
9 access to resources for entrepreneurs across this state. The Office  
10 shall serve as a point of contact to assist businesses operating for  
11 five (5) years or less in their interactions with state government.

12 C. No later than January 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the  
13 Office shall prepare an annual report detailing the extent to which  
14 state legislation that has been signed by the Governor in the prior  
15 legislative session or year supports, hinders, or otherwise affects  
16 businesses operating for five (5) years or less.

17 D. The Office shall support and advise the Executive Director  
18 of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce with preparing the report  
19 pursuant to Section 3 of this act.

20 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.16.2 of Title 74, unless  
22 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:  
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1 A. No later than January 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the  
2 Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall file  
3 a report with the Legislature that includes, but is not limited to:

4 1. The number and total dollar amount of state contracts  
5 awarded to businesses that have been in operation for less than five  
6 (5) years, including a breakdown by demographic segments and  
7 geographic areas throughout the state;

8 2. The percentage of the number of state contracts awarded to  
9 businesses that have been in operation for less than five (5) years  
10 compared to the total number of contracts awarded; and

11 3. The percentage of the total dollar amount of state contracts  
12 awarded to businesses that have been in operation for less than five  
13 (5) years compared to the total dollar amount of contracts awarded.

14 B. The Director shall produce and file a report with the  
15 Legislature making recommendations on improving access to state  
16 contracts for businesses that have been in operation for less than  
17 five (5) years, including those businesses in statistically  
18 underrepresented demographic segments and geographic areas of the  
19 state.

20 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.16.3 of Title 74, unless  
22 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23 After the effective date of this act, the Legislature shall  
24 encourage five percent (5%) of the total number of state contracts

1 to be awarded to businesses that have been in operation for less  
2 than five (5) years and whose principal place of business is in the  
3 state.

4 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
5 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.16.4 of Title 74, unless  
6 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

7 No later than January 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the  
8 Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall file  
9 a report with the Legislature that includes, but is not limited to:

10 1. The percentage of workforce development funding, including  
11 funding allocated by Workforce Development Boards across the state,  
12 supporting organization or programs for individuals starting new  
13 businesses or to those organizations or programs that provide  
14 services to businesses established within the previous five (5)  
15 years and whose principal place of business is in this state; and

16 2. The total dollar amount of workforce development funding,  
17 including funding allocated by Workforce Development Boards across  
18 the state, supporting organizations and programs for individuals  
19 starting new businesses, or to those organization or programs that  
20 provide services to businesses established within the previous five  
21 (5) years and whose principal place of business is in this state.

22 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
23 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.16.5 of Title 74, unless  
24 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 After the effective date of this act, the Legislature shall  
2 encourage five percent (5%) of workforce development funding,  
3 including funding allocated by Workforce Development Boards across  
4 the state, towards supporting organizations and programs for  
5 individuals starting new businesses or to those organizations or  
6 programs that provide services to businesses established within the  
7 previous five (5) years and whose principal place of business is in  
8 this state.

9 SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
10 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.16.6 of Title 74, unless  
11 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

12 No later than January 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the  
13 Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall file  
14 a report with the Legislature that includes, but is not limited to:

15 1. The percentage of economic development funding, including  
16 Community Development Block Grants, supporting organizations or  
17 programs for individuals starting new businesses or to those  
18 organizations or programs that provide services to businesses  
19 established within the previous five (5) years and whose principal  
20 place of business is in this state; and

21 2. The total dollar amount of economic development funding,  
22 including Community Development Block Grants, supporting  
23 organizations or programs for individuals starting new businesses or  
24 to those organizations or programs that provide services to

1 businesses established within the previous five (5) years and whose  
2 principal place of business is in this state.

3 SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.16.7 of Title 74, unless  
5 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 After the effective date of this act, the Legislature shall  
7 encourage five percent (5%) of funding budgeted for economic  
8 development programs, including Community Development Block Grants,  
9 to be allocated to supporting organizations and programs for  
10 individuals starting new businesses or to those organizations or  
11 programs that provide services to businesses established within the  
12 previous five (5) years and whose principal place of business is in  
13 this state.

14 SECTION 9. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5003.16.8 of Title 74, unless  
16 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 After the effective date of this act, the Legislature shall  
18 encourage the elimination of all first-year business fees relating  
19 to any license or registration, for any new business or a person  
20 establishing a new business, including home-based businesses, whose  
21 principal place of business is in this state.

22 SECTION 10. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.  
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