
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5375

AN ACT CONCERNING SMALL BUSINESS GUIDANCE REGARDING INFECTIOUS DISEASE MITIGATION STRATEGIES AND BEST PRACTICES FOR OPERATING DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OR CIVIL PREPAREDNESS EMERGENCY.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Economic and Community Development, through its statewide small business hotline and Office of Small Business Affairs, to make available to prospective and existing small businesses information and guidance on:

1. infectious disease mitigation strategies, including those pertaining to COVID-19, and
2. best practices for operating during a declared state public health or civil preparedness emergency.

Under the bill, the small business hotline must begin providing this information by October 1, 2022. (Presumably, this information would be included on the Office of Small Business Affairs' small business resources webpage, which the office must update on a quarterly basis under existing law.)

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2022

BACKGROUND

Public Health and Civil Preparedness Emergencies

By law, the governor may declare a public health emergency in the event of a statewide or regional public health emergency. He may declare a civil preparedness emergency in the event or imminent occurrence of a serious disaster, enemy attack, sabotage, or other hostile action.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 2 (03/22/2022)